

# IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

North of Sun Valley, Idaho

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Aging Population and Pension Payments
- Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Under Pressure
- August Unemployment Rate, Nonfarm Jobs Update
- Idaho's Employment and Wages, 1st Quarter 2008
- September Employment Estimates Show Tough Times
- Regional Economic Developments —  
Panhandle, North Central, Southwestern, South Central, Southeastern and East Central

**State Tables** — County-Specific Labor Force Data, Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Economic Indicators.

**Regional Labor Force Tables** — Panhandle, North Central, Southwestern, South Central, Southeastern, East Central.

## Glossary of Labor Terms

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## AGING POPULATION, PENSION PAYMENTS ADD TO IDAHO'S ECONOMIC PICTURE

Pensioners are contributing hundreds of millions of dollars a year to Idaho's economy, underscoring the increasing attention being paid to the economic consequences of the state's aging population and work force.

New Census Bureau estimates show that retirement income totaled more than \$1.7 billion in Idaho during 2007, over 5 percent of total household personal income in the state. And during spring 2008, rising pension benefits helped offset flat wages and salaries to provide a modest increase in Idaho's total personal income even as the economy was slowing significantly.

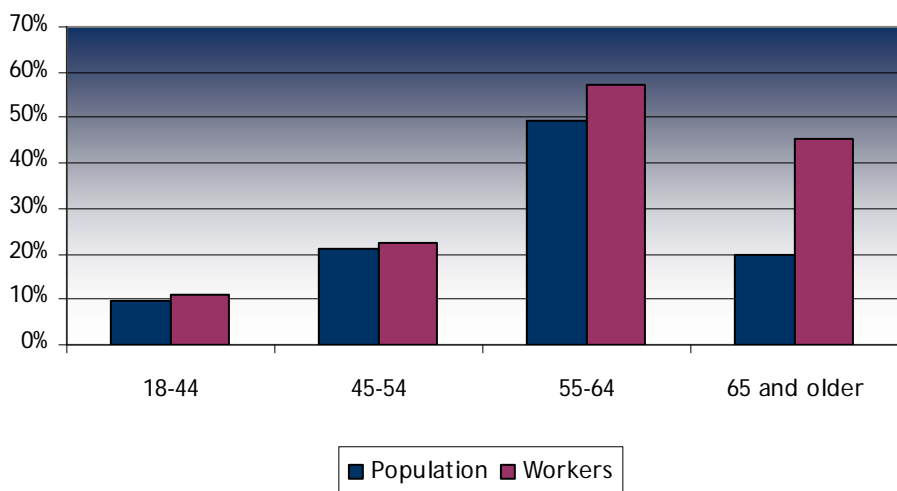
The number of households receiving some kind of pension payment exceeded 100,000 in 2007, or nearly 16.5 percent of all households.

The growth of retirement benefits and retirement households in Idaho has been among the fastest in the nation since the 2000 census, according to the bureau's estimates from the 2007 American Community Survey. The survey covered about 24,000 of Idaho's 1.5 million residents.

Total retirement payments rose over 48 percent from under \$1.2 billion in 2000. Only Alaska, Georgia and Nevada saw stronger increases. And the number of households getting pension checks was up 30,000, or more than 40 percent, which was the 10<sup>th</sup> highest growth rate. Only 15.6 percent of Idaho's households had retirement income in 2000.



### Idaho Overall Population Percentage Increase from 2000 to 2007 Compared to Worker Population Increase from 2000 to 2007 by Age Group



Expanding pension benefits reflects the baby boomer generation coming of retirement age.

Idaho's population has been among the fastest growing in the nation during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and the growth has been among older Idahoans. While Idaho's population rose 16 percent between 2000 and 2007, the under 18 population was up only 10.5 percent. From 18 to 44, the population grew less than 10 percent.

But the number of people between 45 and 54 increased over 21 percent while those over 54 were up nearly 20 percent with ages 55 to 64 jumping almost 50 percent. That was another 118,000 people 45 and older, over 56 percent of the total increase in population since the 2000 census.

Some of them moved to Idaho as they retired while many of the others began drawing pensions from the jobs they had been working for decades.

But an increasing number have also continued to work since 2000, some because rising living costs and responsibilities for aging parents put complete retirement out of reach. But many – their health good and their enthusiasm still strong – stayed on the job because they simply were not ready to quit working.

The 55-and-over bloc accounted for 17 percent of Idaho's workers in 2007, up from just 13 percent in 2000.

*See retirement income by state for 2007 on page 3.*

*Bob Fick, Communications Manager  
(208) 332-3570 ext. 3628  
bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov*

Retirement Income by State, 2007					
	Retirement Income	% of Household Income	Rank by % of Total	% Change from 2000	Rank by Change
Alabama	\$6,717,979,500	6.66%	5	26.01%	36
Alaska	\$1,073,718,800	5.77%	18	56.78%	1
Arizona	\$9,489,544,600	6.37%	9	47.91%	5
Arkansas	\$3,240,926,000	5.68%	19	23.58%	39
California	\$43,654,760,400	4.37%	40	30.68%	28
Colorado	\$6,907,316,500	5.08%	31	47.80%	6
Connecticut	\$5,151,415,500	4.21%	46	23.77%	38
Delaware	\$1,585,744,400	6.79%	4	41.23%	9
DC	\$1,303,052,000	5.88%	16	10.89%	50
Florida	\$29,130,199,800	6.19%	12	23.40%	40
Georgia	\$11,711,564,200	5.15%	28	50.61%	2
Hawaii	\$2,434,059,900	6.94%	2	39.16%	11
Idaho	\$1,723,044,300	5.07%	32	48.46%	4
Illinois	\$15,928,726,200	4.57%	37	33.88%	22
Indiana	\$6,917,997,900	4.67%	36	22.52%	42
Iowa	\$3,064,177,200	4.24%	44	31.28%	25
Kansas	\$3,001,729,200	4.37%	39	21.68%	44
Kentucky	\$5,763,355,900	6.40%	8	30.89%	27
Louisiana	\$4,824,628,400	5.33%	24	22.86%	41
Maine	\$1,943,287,600	6.03%	13	41.87%	8
Maryland	\$10,835,724,400	5.88%	15	36.69%	17
Massachusetts	\$8,421,804,100	4.13%	47	30.37%	30
Michigan	\$15,854,682,900	6.55%	6	30.55%	29
Minnesota	\$6,082,315,800	4.11%	48	37.25%	15
Mississippi	\$3,090,918,200	5.61%	20	17.59%	48
Missouri	\$7,564,688,700	5.50%	22	28.91%	34
Montana	\$1,220,671,300	5.84%	17	37.57%	14
Nebraska	\$1,643,380,400	3.93%	50	26.77%	35
Nevada	\$3,668,632,500	5.30%	25	50.32%	3
New Hampshire	\$1,677,776,700	4.29%	41	29.48%	32
New Jersey	\$12,095,979,300	4.24%	43	32.81%	23
New Mexico	\$2,969,869,700	7.20%	1	36.07%	19
New York	\$27,693,551,300	5.01%	33	31.04%	26
North Carolina	\$11,928,800,800	5.55%	21	37.62%	13
North Dakota	\$547,392,800	3.59%	51	34.21%	21
Ohio	\$17,140,128,200	6.24%	11	21.59%	45
Oklahoma	\$4,312,147,900	5.45%	23	17.48%	49
Oregon	\$5,487,697,600	5.91%	14	38.69%	12
Pennsylvania	\$16,340,912,700	5.15%	29	18.53%	47
Rhode Island	\$1,471,702,600	5.21%	26	21.99%	43
South Carolina	\$6,352,525,200	6.43%	7	36.81%	16
South Dakota	\$702,244,100	4.08%	49	35.91%	20
Tennessee	\$7,181,427,600	5.13%	30	21.41%	46
Texas	\$23,187,745,600	4.24%	45	29.16%	33
Utah	\$2,836,249,800	4.92%	35	45.19%	7
Vermont	\$718,362,000	4.45%	38	24.22%	37
Virginia	\$14,785,814,200	6.33%	10	39.16%	10
Washington	\$9,432,551,100	5.18%	27	32.73%	24
West Virginia	\$2,460,475,400	6.83%	3	2.44%	51
Wisconsin	\$7,038,706,000	4.93%	34	36.35%	18
Wyoming	\$598,164,000	4.28%	42	30.01%	31

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TRUST FUND UNDER PRESSURE

Idaho's escalating unemployment as the state economy becomes entangled in the national financial crisis has been putting increasing pressure on the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

Through September the fund paid out \$152.2 million to unemployed Idaho workers. That was nearly \$60 million, or 63 percent, more than was paid out through the first nine months of 2007, \$70 million more than in 2006 and \$3.5 million more than in 2003 when the fund paid out a record \$181.8 million for the entire year.

Since January, Idaho's unemployment rate has jumped from 2.8 percent to 5 percent, and the number of workers without jobs is up nearly 17,000. That translated into more than 590,000 weekly benefit checks being issued since the year began – 200,000 more than in 2007 and 228,000 more than in 2006. Most telling was that during the last three weeks of September, the number of weekly checks exceeded the record pace of 2003.

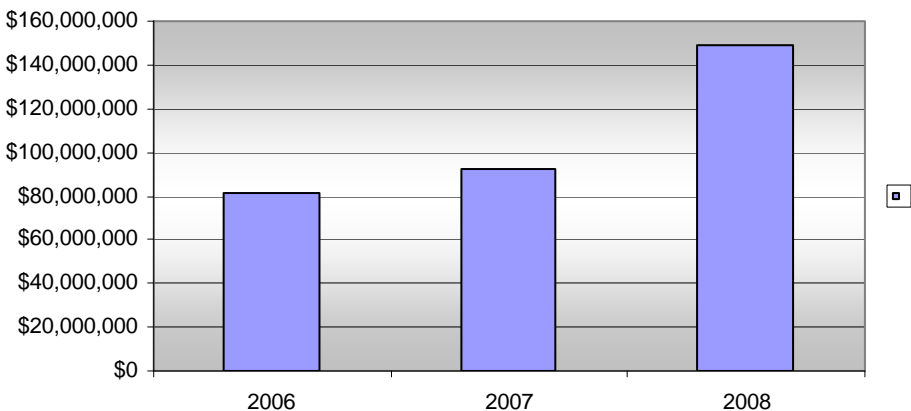
The demand for assistance from unemployed workers dropped the balance of the trust fund to \$248 million at the end of August, \$59 million less than at the end of August 2007. The activity during September has likely reduced the balance even further.

As a result, the employer tax rate will increase by about 70 percent in 2009 under the formula developed by business and labor and unanimously adopted by the Legislature in 2005 to assure an adequate fund balance and equitable and proportional taxation for all employers. At the same time, the maximum weekly benefit for jobless workers will decline to about \$362, over 3 percent less than what it would have otherwise been.

But the tax increase will be on the lowest average effective tax rate in Idaho history – 0.6 percent for 2008. By comparison in 1983 before significant revisions were made to the program, Idaho had an average effective tax rate of a record 2.4 percent, which was the highest in the nation.

While significant, the tax rate increase in 2009 follows major savings for employers from the revised formula. The tax rate dropped 22 percent in 2007 to save employers \$35 million and another 30 percent this year that saved them over \$45 million more. This was on top of the estimated \$200 million that was left in the hands of employers in 2005 when the unemployment insurance structure was revised to reduce the target balance of the trust fund. That revision followed two years when the employer tax rate was frozen at the 2002 level, dramatically reducing the trust fund balance as the state worked its way out of the 2001 national recession.

**Idaho Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid,  
January – September, 2006-2008**



To generate employer savings like that, however, the formula was designed to react much more rapidly to changing economic circumstances. The dramatic growth of the economy in 2006 and early 2007 caused the significant tax rate declines, and the rapid contraction of Idaho's economy over the past year has accelerated the counter-reaction.

*Bob Fick, Communications Manager  
(208) 332-3570 ext. 3628  
bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov*

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## **AUGUST UNEMPLOYMENT JUMPS TO 4.6 PERCENT**

### **STATE SUMMARY**

High fuel prices and the persisting fallout from the national housing and financial crises drove Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to a four-year high of 4.6 percent in August.

The rate, which has risen every month since February, was 4.1 percent in July and a record low 2.7 percent a year ago.

It was the second time this year Idaho's unemployment rate jumped a half point as employment continued a steady decline that begun in February. The last half-point jump was in May when the rate rose from 3.1 percent to 3.6 percent.

Although the state labor force has grown substantially in the past two decades, more Idaho workers were off the job in August – 34,600 – than during any other month since August 1987 when the state was finally pulling out of the near-depression of the mid-1980s.

Another 3,700 people joined the unemployment rolls in August, bringing to 14,400 the additional number workers without jobs since the year began. Through August, the number of weekly unemployment checks issued by the state was nearly 50 percent higher than for the first eight months of 2007.

Nationally, the unemployment rate jumped to a five-year high of 6.1 percent. It was the 83<sup>rd</sup> straight month that Idaho has been below the national rate. Although Idaho's experienced a significant increase in the unemployment rate, it ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in country. South Dakota had the lowest rate at 3.3 percent. Michigan reported the highest at 8.9 percent. At this time last year, Idaho and Hawaii had the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Overall, 16,400 fewer people were working in Idaho in August than in August 2007, and two of every three of them were in the Boise-Nampa metropolitan area. Twenty-nine of the 44 counties saw employment drop from the year-earlier level as total employment fell to 720,200.

Labor force data for the state, labor market areas, counties and cities can be found in the state table on page 40

### **COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS**

The economic weakening was felt throughout the state. All but five counties – Camas, Jerome, Latah, Madison and Owyhee – experienced increased unemployment rates. Gooding County's rate remained unchanged. The largest jump was in Adams County, where the rate climbed to 8.1 percent from 4.9 percent in July.

For the first time this year five counties reported unemployment rates equal to or in excess of 7 percent. The highest in August was Clearwater at 8.7 percent followed by Adams at 8.1 percent. Shoshone reported 7.4 percent, Benewah 7.1 percent and Boundary 7 percent.

Unemployment rates at or below 3 percent were posted in four counties. None had a rate below 2 percent. Madison came in lowest at 2.4 percent. Owyhee was at 2.5 percent, Franklin 2.8 percent and Teton 3 percent.

Twelve counties reported unemployment rates between 3.8 percent and 3.1 percent. Ten counties experienced unemployment between 4.1 percent and 4.8 percent, and 13 had rates between 5 percent and 6.9 percent. This is a significant change from August 2007 when 31 counties in the state had an unemployment rate at 3 percent or below.

#### **AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS**

Of the 10 labor market areas, Grangeville reported the highest unemployment rate at 5.6 percent. The rate was up 1.1 percentage points from July's 4.5 percent and significantly above the August 2007 rate of 3.6 percent.

The Idaho Falls metro area reported an unadjusted unemployment rate of 3.1 percent, the seventh lowest among the nation's 369 metropolitan statistical areas. Coeur d'Alene ranked 55th at 4.3 percent, Boise-Nampa was 83rd at 4.7 percent and Lewiston was 92<sup>nd</sup> at 4.8 percent.

Sioux Falls, S. Dak., had at lowest rate at 2.6 percent. The highest rate was reported in El Centro, Calif., at 24.7 percent.

#### **NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS**

Nonfarm jobs rebounded in August to 660,600 following a drop in July, primarily the result of public schools closing for the summer. The increase followed normal seasonal patterns and reflected monthly gains from February through June. The addition of 2,000 jobs in August was positive, even if it was entirely in the service sector. The only gain on the production side of the economy was in construction and then just 300, not enough to offset the loss of 800 jobs in manufacturing and mining. About 1,500 of the new jobs were in administrative and support services.

Nonfarm jobs year over year decreased for the fifth consecutive month, production jobs being hit the hardest. Manufacturing jobs began falling below year-earlier levels in August 2007. Construction followed in September 2007. Although the service sector has shown growth, it has not been enough to offset those losses.

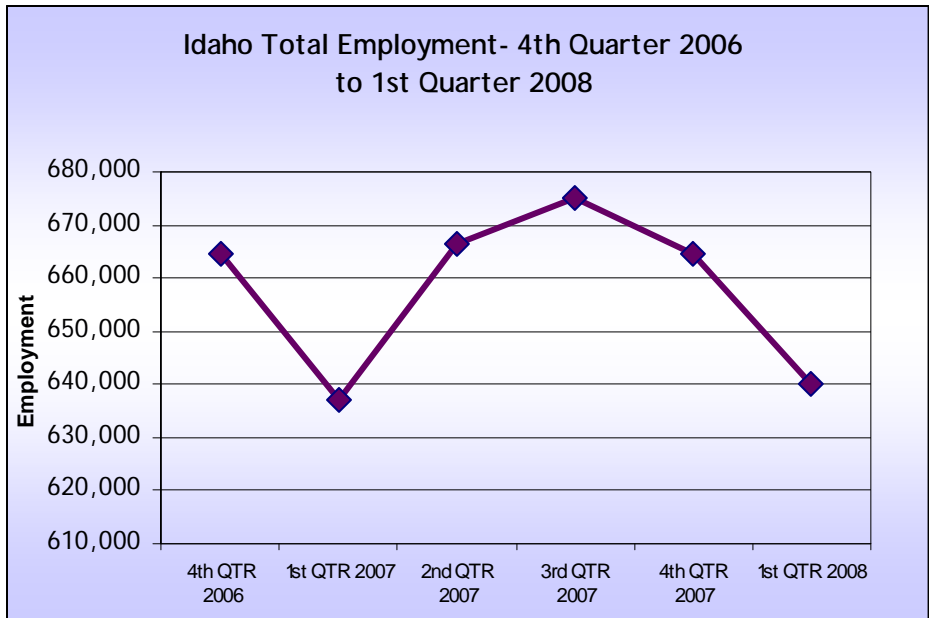
- State and local governments added 2,200 jobs since August 2007, 1,400 at the state level with 800 in administration. Local government added the other 800 jobs. A seasonal loss of 300 in education was offset by 900 more administrative jobs and another 200 in tribal enterprises.
- Health care added 1,800 jobs, primarily in hospitals and ambulatory health. Private education reported growth of 400 jobs.
- Administrative and support services added 1,200 jobs over the year. Some were in the area of employment placement and temporary help agencies.
- Accommodations and food services added 700 jobs, most in the hotel sector to staff the new hotels built around the state in the previous year. Since January 2007 more than 50 new lodging facilities have opened across the state.
- Construction suffered the largest job loss in the last 12 months – 4,900 almost evenly split between residential and special trade contractors. Heavy construction lost less than 15 percent.
- Manufacturing reported a job loss of 4,100. The sectors hit were computer and electronics, wood products and specialty food processing. The loss of processing jobs varies between July and August depending on when the potato processing plants shut down for annual maintenance. Earlier layoffs at Micron Technology in Boise continued to have a negative impact on the year-to-year numbers. Wood products manufacturing has been influenced by cutbacks and closures at several sawmills in northern Idaho.
- Retail trade, which typically adds jobs in August, shed over 1,300 statewide. The lack of jobs was underscored by reports that Costco received 4,000 applications for the 160 jobs it has at its soon-to-open store in Pocatello.

*Janell Hyer, Regional Economist Supervisor  
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3220*

*E-mail: [janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov)*

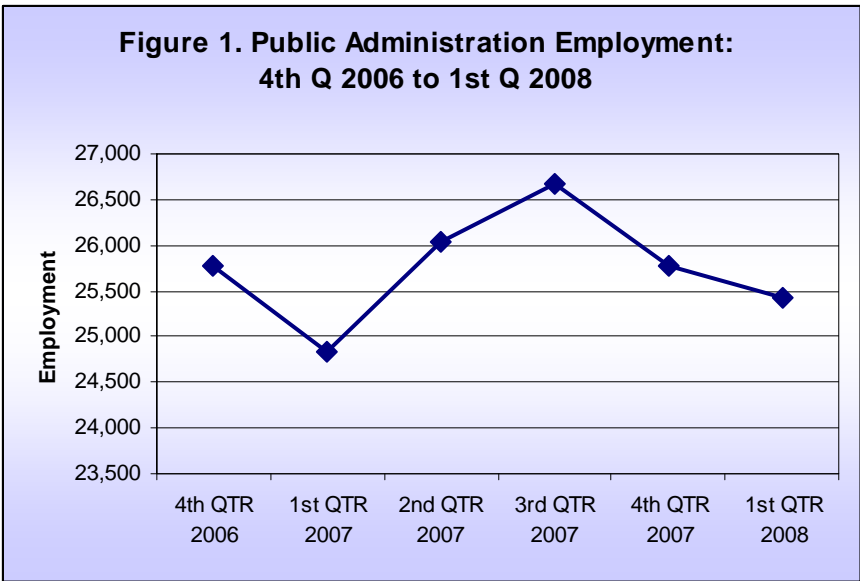
IDAHO EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES - 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER OF 2008

Idaho employment in the first quarter of 2008 tumbled 24,372 from fourth quarter, the largest quarter-to-quarter job loss in eight years. The last job loss of 24,000 or more was during the end of the national recession in late 2001 and early 2002. The slowdown in employment activity across the state that started in the summer of 2007 accelerated in the first quarter of 2008.



Average employment for the January-March quarter was 640,146, which is down 3.7 percent from the previous quarter but up a half percent, or 3,200, from the same quarter last year. Private employment was off 13,474, or 2.4 percent, from the fourth quarter and 9,200, or 1.7 percent, from same quarter last year. In addition, government employment including educational services averaged 112,478, down by a third of a percent from the previous quarter but up 2.2 percent from a year earlier.

A record number of industries saw decreasing employment beyond seasonal changes. Government remained the largest employment sector in Idaho although there were seasonal decreases in environmental quality programs at both federal and state levels. *See figure 1.*

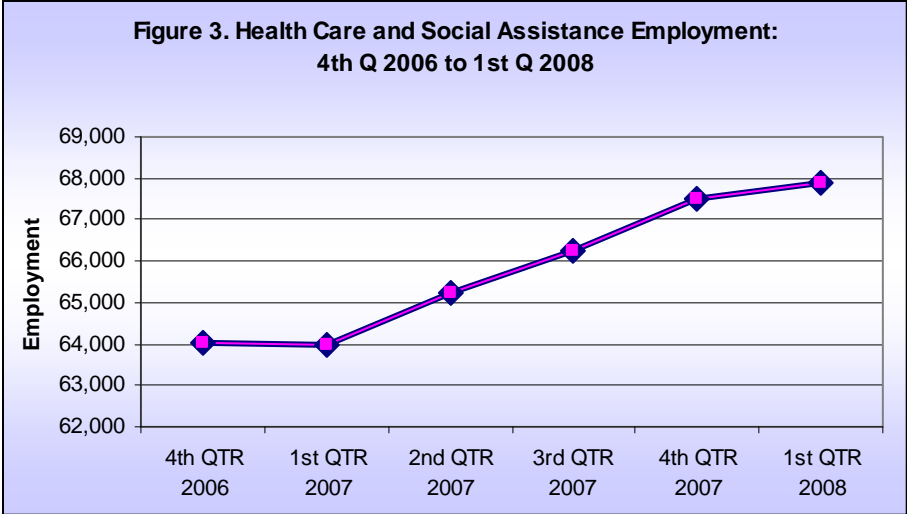




Retail trade maintained the highest employment in the private sector, averaging 82,079, but slow retail sales after the holiday season resulted in a decrease of 3,589 jobs, or 4.2 percent, from the fourth quarter. Year over year, employment was up 1 percent, the average for this industry. *See figure 2.*



Health care and social assistance provided 67,895 jobs to remain the second largest industry, gaining 400 jobs from the fourth quarter and 3,900 jobs from a year before. But during the first quarter health care and social assistance experienced shallower growth than any other quarter during the previous year. Child care services experienced a 5.4 percent decline from the fourth quarter, tempering overall growth in the sector. *See figure 3.*



Manufacturing posted 64,003 jobs. While it was the third largest private-industry sector in Idaho, it has been continuously shedding employment, mainly in durable goods production. Computer and electrical equipment manufacturing had combined job losses of 4,400, overwhelming relatively modest gains in other manufacturing areas to result in an overall loss of 2,100 manufacturing jobs since the first quarter of 2007. *See figure 4 on page 9.*

Job losses in construction, the other major component of the production side of the economy, were even greater at 7,900 from the fourth quarter and 5,200



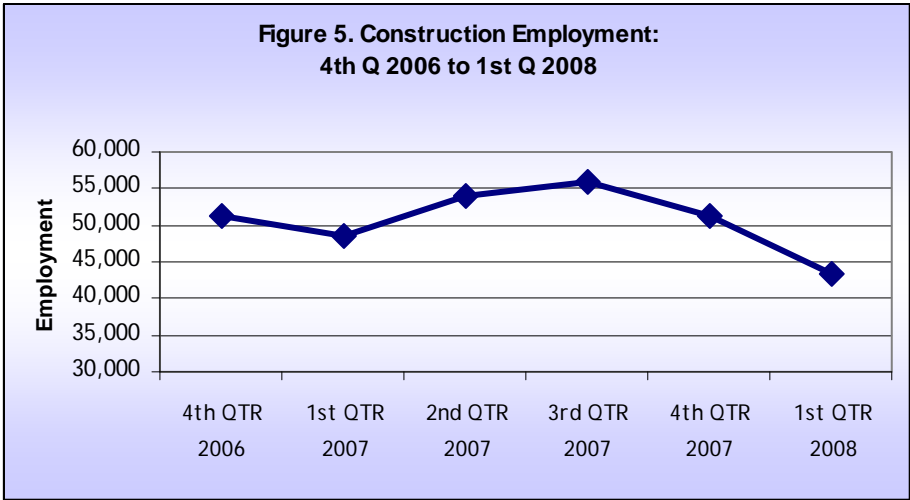
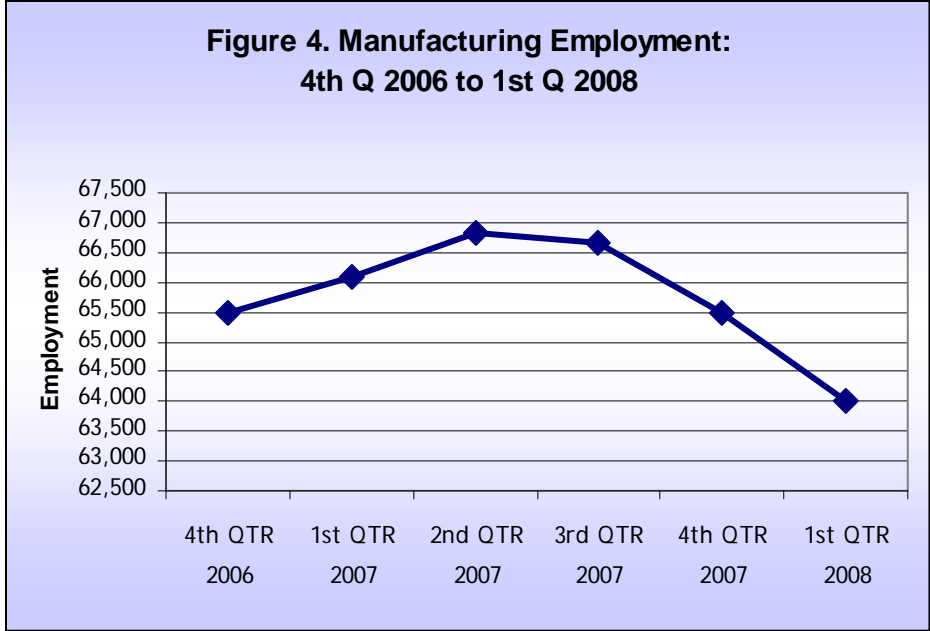
from a year earlier. The construction industry is the only one to suffer a 10 per cent drop in employment over the previous year. *See figure 5.*

The average weekly wage for all industries in Idaho was \$635 in the first quarter of 2008, reflecting the seasonal decrease in wages of 7 percent. The highest weekly wage was in management of companies and enterprises at \$1,543 followed closely by utilities at \$1,162. Entertainment and recreation provided the lowest average weekly wage at \$238, \$85 below hotels and restaurants. *See figure 6 on page 10.*

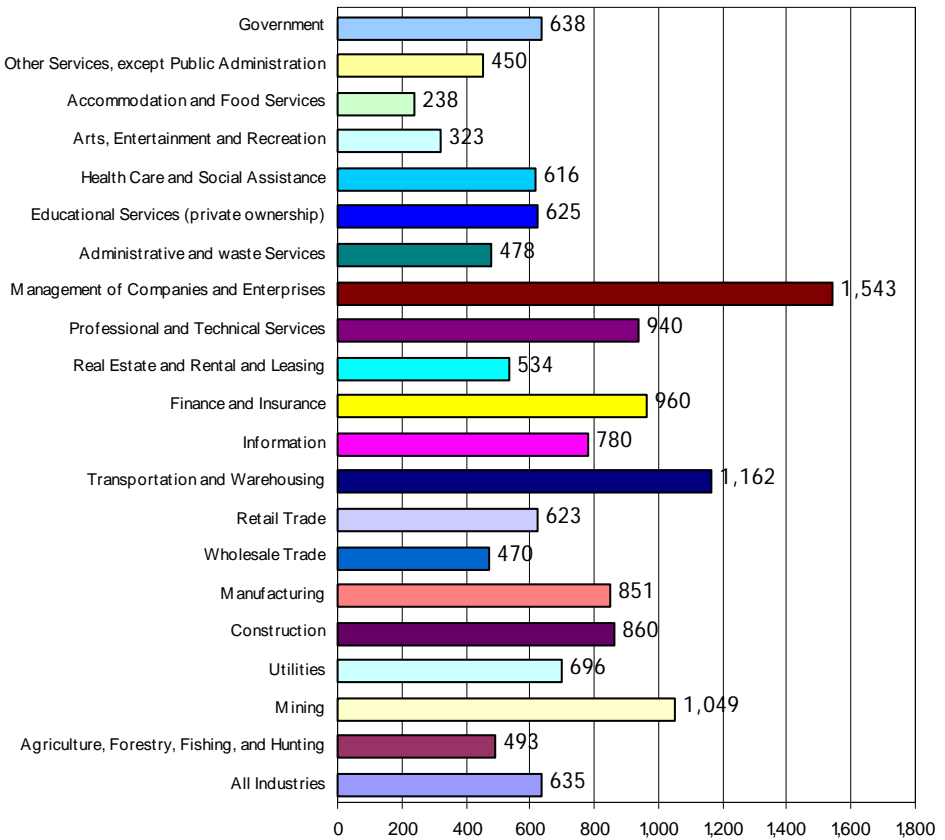
Professional, scientific and technical services added the most jobs from the fourth quarter at 436 followed closely by entertainment and recreation with 434. Health care and social assistance was the third and last industry with triple-digit growth, adding 402 jobs. On the other hand, there were four industries dropping over 3,000 jobs each, much more than the usual seasonal impact. Construction led the way, losing nearly 8,000 jobs from the fourth quarter, followed by administration and support services with nearly 4,900 fewer jobs and retail trade with a loss of 3,589.

*See more graphs below on the next page.*

*Ajsa Bektic, Research Analyst Senior  
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3198  
ajsa.bektic@labor.idaho.gov*



**Figure 6. Idaho Weekly Average Wages by Industry Sector-  
1st Quarter 2008**



## HALLOWEEN STATISTICS FROM THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

### 36 MILLION

- The estimated number of potential trick-or-treaters in 2007 – children 5 to 13 – across the United States. This number is down about 38,000 from a year earlier. Of course, many other children – older than 13, and younger than 5 – also go trick-or-treating. *Source: Population estimates. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>*

### 110.3 MILLION

- Number of occupied housing units across the nation in 2007 – all potential stops for trick-or-treaters. *Source: Housing Vacancies and Homeownership < <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/historic/hist15.htm>*

## JACK-O'-LANTERNS AND PUMPKIN PIES

### 1.1 BILLION POUNDS

- Total production of pumpkins by major pumpkin-producing states in 2007. Illinois led the country by producing 542 million pounds of the vined orange gourd. Pumpkin patches in California, New York and Ohio also provided lots of pumpkins: Each state produced at least 100 million pounds. The value of all pumpkins produced by major pumpkin-producing states was \$117 million. *Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov/index.asp>>*



## **SEPTEMBER REPORT SHOWS TOUGH TIMES FOR IDAHO NONFARM JOBS**

As the escalating economic crisis grows and wreaks havoc through the nation and the world, the preliminary nonfarm employment estimates show Idaho has suffered through one of the worst Septembers on record.

Nonfarm employment shed 700 jobs in Idaho from August to September. This 0.11 percent decline is the first September job loss Idaho has witnessed since 1976. The seasonal increase that is expected in August and September disappeared this year, intensifying the cause for concern.

September's decline is compounded by a revision of jobs estimate for August, which was reduced by almost 1,800 from the preliminary estimate, essentially wiping out any noticeable jobs increase for the month.

The decline in nonfarm jobs in September resulted in the slowest job growth from the second to third quarter on record.

Idaho added just 500 jobs in the third quarter, a gain of only 0.08 percent. Not since the government began keeping records in 1939 has percentage growth been so anemic.

### **CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS PROCESSES EXPLAINED**

There are two phases in the month-to-month employment estimation process in the Current Employment Statistics program. First preliminary estimates are made at the end of each month and are subject to change as more employers in the sample report in. A final estimate is made at the end of the following month. This allows time to collect as much data from businesses participating in the sample as possible so a more accurate estimate can be made.

Clearly, this September was statistically significant because nonfarm employment departed from its normal third quarter movement and signals further declines this year. October with its cooling temperatures typically sees seasonal job contraction. Over the last five years encompassing some of the strongest economic growth Idaho has ever seen, nonfarm jobs on average have dropped a third of a percent from September to October. September's break with the established trend combined with the absence of any sign that the current economic storm is abating indicates Idaho will be fortunate if jobs declines are no greater than the normal seasonal rate for October.

For the month of September, Idaho jobs continue in the red year over year. The gap between 2007 and 2008, which began opening in April, widened to 1.38 percent in September. This is the first time since 1986 there has been job losses year-to-year in September.

All Idaho employment sectors but the education and health care and government posted job losses from August. The growth for those two sectors was due to the start of the new school year and ever expanding demand for health care. These two sectors along with other services show slight year-to-year growth in contrast to the sobering declines experienced in the rest of the economy.

Employment in retail sales took a hard hit in September, losing 1,300 jobs. This 1.55 percent loss is the worst for a September since the modern employment classification system began in 1990. Year to year, this September was one of only two since 1990 to experience job losses. The worst year was 2002 with a 7.96 percent decline. In 2008, there was a 1.92 percent drop in retail jobs from 12 months earlier.

Construction continued to experience declines, 2.31 percent from August, which was higher than the average drop over the last five years. But this decline comes after smaller than normal summer increase in jobs, which failed to compensate for the sharp declines that started in fall 2007. September

marked the 13th straight month that construction jobs have run below year earlier levels. It is the longest period of decline since 1990.

Manufacturing continued its long, negative slide with a 0.83 percent job loss from August and a 6.32 percent deficit from September 2007.

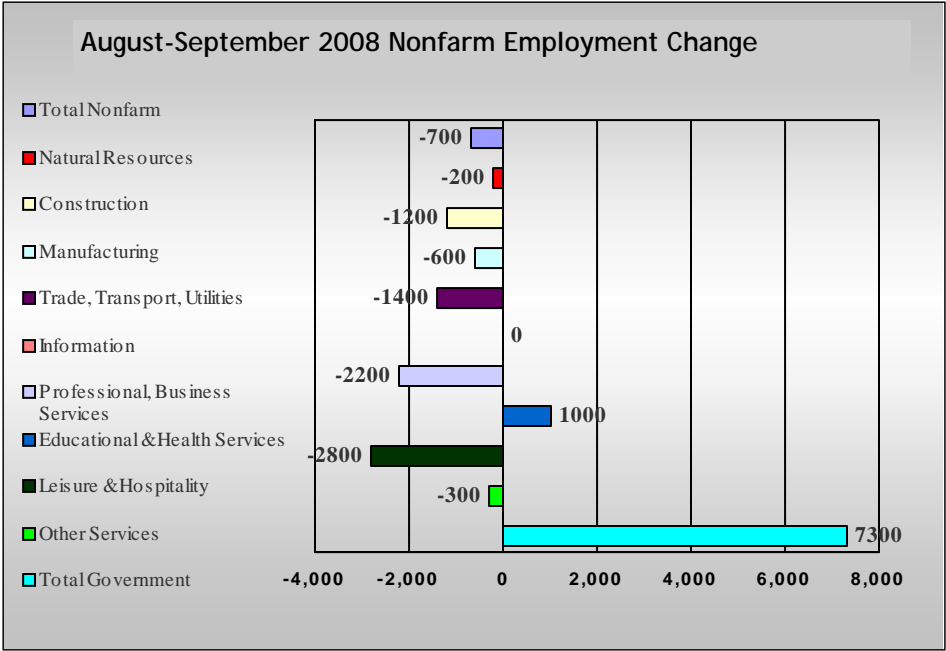
From a quarterly perspective, nonfarm jobs this summer were 1 percent below the third quarter of 2007. The last time this figure was negative was in the recession year of 1986. This marks the second straight quarter of year-over-year job decline.

Just a few sectors added jobs from the second quarter. Among them, construction along with leisure and hospitality displayed encouraging growth that was just short of average. However, construction remained well below its 2007 levels while leisure and hospitality gained just enough to remain even with last year. Any growth in the third quarter only offset the seasonal drop in government employment from schools closing or scaling back for the summer. That resulted in the historically flat quarter.

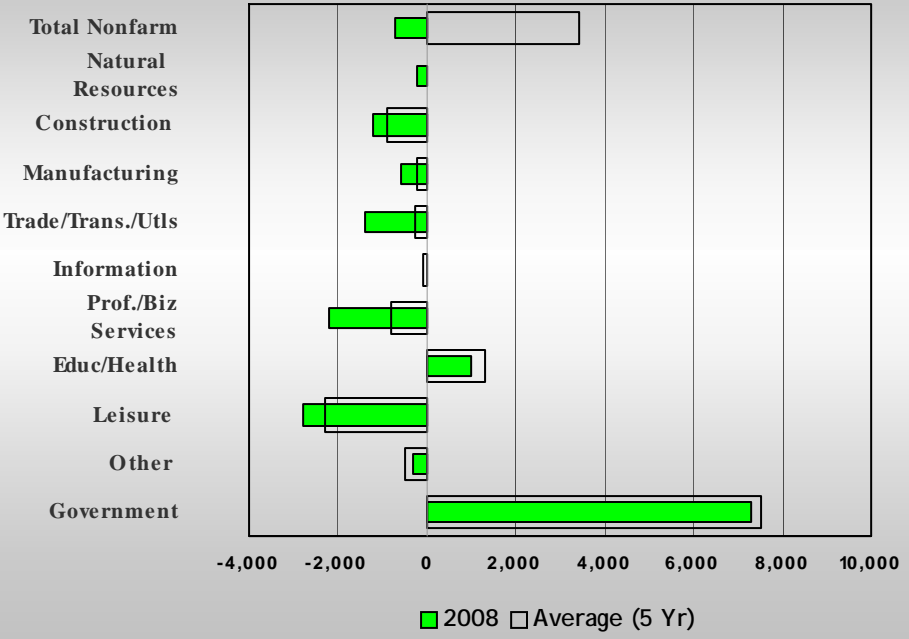
Education and health services continued to grow despite the economic conditions engulfing the state. While the year-over-year growth of 2.92 percent was shy of the five-year average of 4.08 percent, quarter-to-quarter growth was over 1 percent, slightly higher than the average.

*See accompanying graphs below and on pages.13-15.*

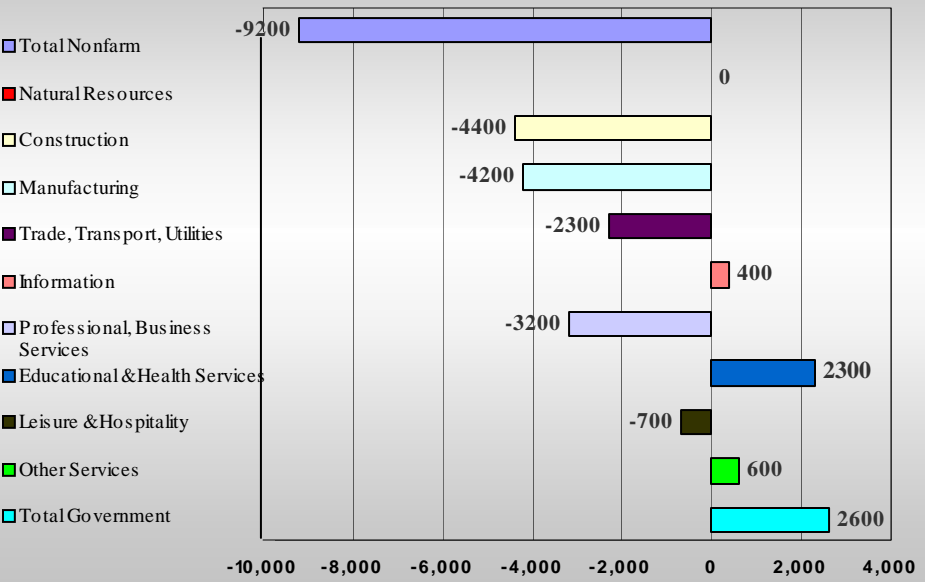
*Craig Shaul, Research Analyst Senior  
(208) 332-3570 ext. 3201  
craig.shaul@labor.idaho.gov*



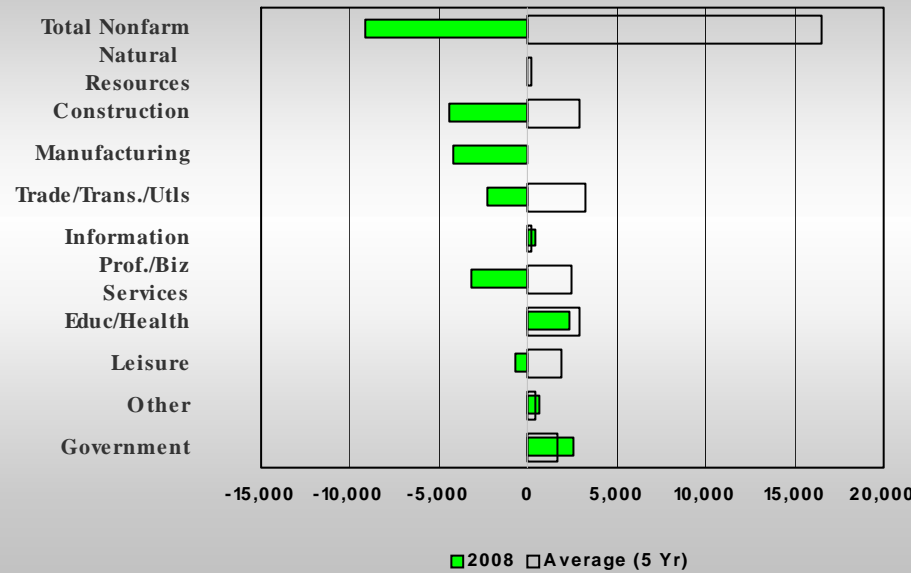
August – September Comparison with Five-Year Average



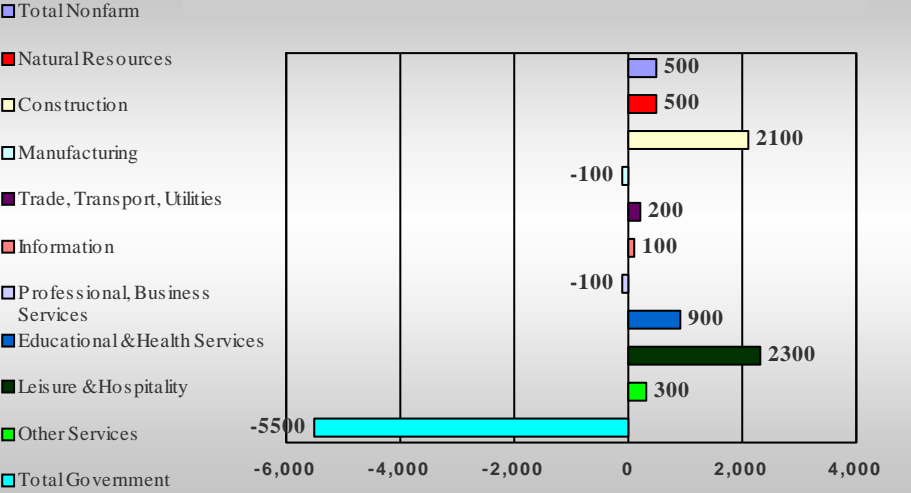
September 2007 to September 2008 Nonfarm Employment Change



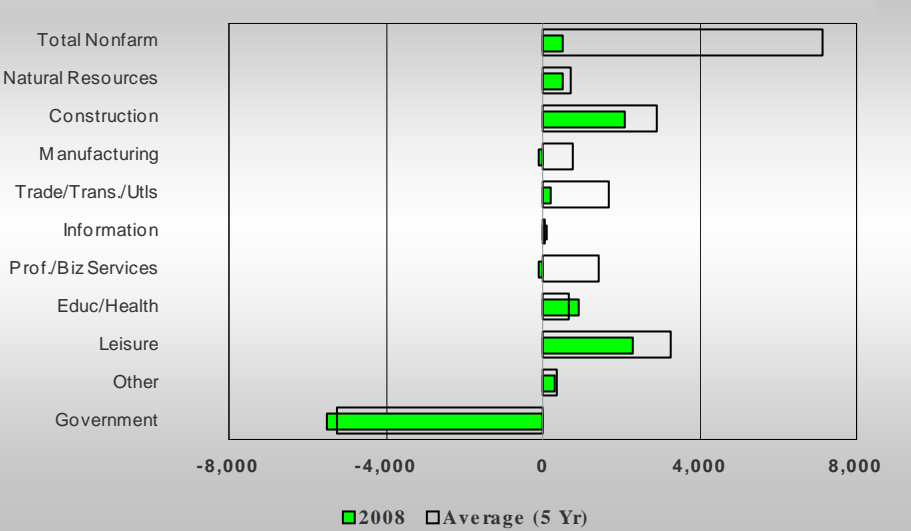
September 2007 to September 2008 Comparison with Five-Year Average



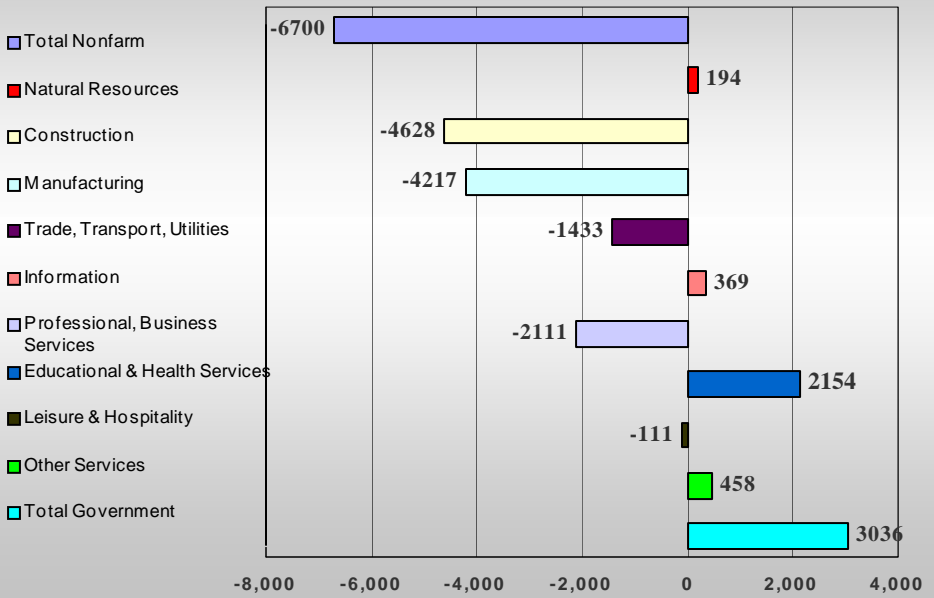
Third Quarter 2008 Change in Nonfarm Employment



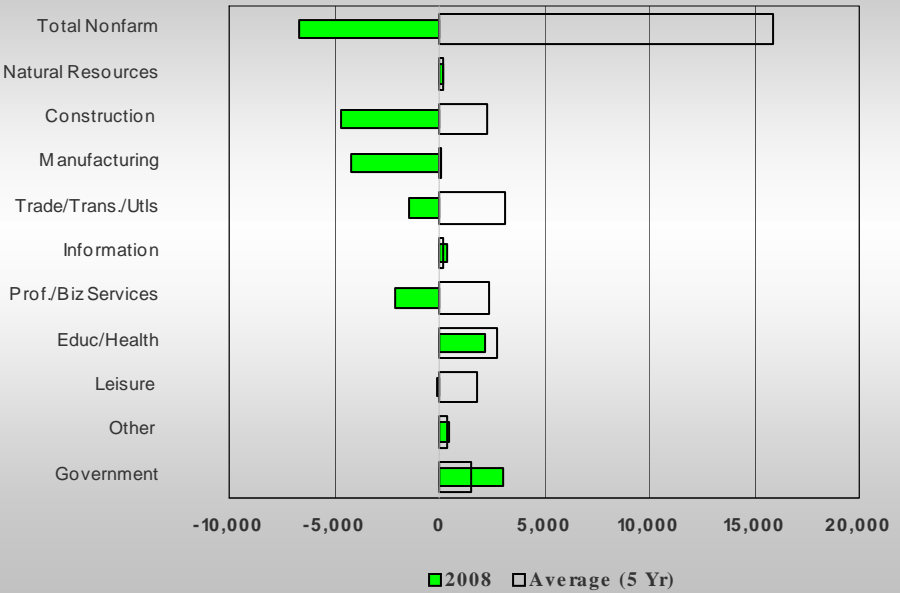
Third Quarter 2008 Change Compared to Five -Year Average



### Third Quarter 2008 Annual Comparison



### Third Quarter 2008 Annual Comparison to Five-Year Average





### PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

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#### REGIONAL UPDATES

- The damage from May's flooding finally was repaired in late September, and the entire 79 miles of the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes from Mullan to Plummer was again open. Surging flood waters washed out an 80-foot section of the asphalt trail between Medimont and Harrison, closing the segment between Enaville and Harrison. Union Pacific paid for the repairs and in September transferred ownership of the trail to the state and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Each year, about 100,000 people travel the trail on foot, bike and inline skates.

#### BONNER COUNTY

- Sunset magazine's latest edition names Sandpoint one of the West's top 10 dream towns, ideal for both vacations and living. Here's what Sunset said, "As you cross the two-mile-long bridge spanning deep, blue Lake Pend Oreille, the Selkirk and Cabinet mountains rimming the horizon, you know you're someplace special: a four-season, outdoorsy resort that's also a real town with a strong community spirit."
- The JD Lumber mill in Priest River closed Oct. 3, two months after it told its 216 workers they would be out of jobs. Western Bonner County already had lost about 250 logging and mill jobs in the last year and a half. The mill was sold to Riley Creek Lumber, based in Laclede, and may reopen when lumber prices return to normal levels. But that's not likely to happen in the next year or so. A few laid-off workers have found jobs in Sandpoint's rapidly growing manufacturing sector or in the greater Spokane area. Many are taking advantage of retraining and job search assistance offered by the Idaho Department of Labor.
- In the face of job losses, the Priest River Development Corp. is intensifying its efforts to expand and diversify the local economy. Its industrial park west of town is almost full, having an economic impact at last report of nearly \$2.4 million. The corporation also is courting two large businesses and several smaller ones that have shown interest in locating there.
- Priest River also has made itself more attractive for tourists and potential residents. It has improved its formerly scruffy downtown. There is a new park, the old one was improved and a new library was built. In early October, the newly renovated Beardmore Block – downtown's largest commercial building – made its debut, and across from it a former auto parts store has been transformed into the Seven Planet coffee shop.
- The city of Priest River has tentatively agreed to annex 800 acres near its eastern boundary for a proposed golf-course community called The Settlement. Developer William Radobenko wants to build 500 homes on the farm land north of U.S. Highway 2. The tract was historically known as the Italian settlement because many Italian railroad workers lived there.
- Tony Plumb showed faith in the future of Priest River when he opened Zoom's Auto Body & Frame in the old marina building on U.S. Highway 2. Zoom's can handle collision repair for anything from a 2-door coupe to an

RV or logging truck. The shop also does paint jobs and repairs snowmobiles. Plumb plans to take on apprentices from the Priest River Lamanna High School, which just created a new program to allow students to earn credit while working and learning trades.

- Lake Pend Oreille Alternative High School, in conjunction with the Sandpoint Senior Center, opened a thrift store Oct. 3 in Sandpoint. 2nds Anyone? sells everything from clothing to furniture to books and games and is staffed by students and volunteers from the senior center. The school's share of the proceeds will go toward scholarships and educational materials for its students. The store also will teach students a variety of work-related skills and show them what it takes to run a business.

#### *BOUNDARY COUNTY*

- In the past 12 months, seven publications have featured stories about the 289-mile scenic International Selkirk Loop that circles through British Columbia, Idaho and Washington. The Bonners ferry-based loop is one of only 27 multi-state scenic highways in the U.S and one of 17 byways with an All-American Road designation. It is the only international byway. AAA tour books, Rand McNally's 2009 Road Atlas, MotorHome Magazine, Good Sam Club's Highways Magazine and Express Jet's in-flight magazine are among the publications featuring the loop, which reach a combined audience of more than 5 million.
- The Bonners Ferry City Council has awarded BF Builders a \$47,250 contract to install a new concrete floor in the 70-year-old city pool, which has suffered leakage problems for years. Last year, 20,000 gallons of water seeped out of the pool.
- Billie Warwick recently opened a women's clothing store in downtown Bonners Ferry. Featuring affordable designer-label clothing, A Bit of Paradise also sells boots, shoes, purses, jewelry and other accessories.

#### *KOOTENAI COUNTY*

- Blows Construction has begun to build the Worley Fire Protection District's new \$1.6 million hall north of Worley. The 11,000-square-foot fire hall will help the district with its expanding responsibilities as population increases in the Worley area and more traffic flows on U.S. Highway 95. Because the number of volunteers is dwindling and aging – the median age is now 55 – the Worley Fire Protection District will likely have to hire firefighters in the near future. That is why the new hall will have sleeping quarters for eight firefighters as well as a kitchen and showers. It will include training and meeting rooms and three bays that can hold two trucks each.
- Wheat Montana Farms, based in Three Forks, Mont., recently closed all four of its corporate-owned retail bakery-deli stores, including the ones in Coeur d'Alene and Boise. The Coeur d'Alene store, which just opened in December, employed 10 people.
- The \$19 million Life Care Center has opened in Post Falls. The 120-bed nursing home employs 130. Thirty-four nursing and residential care facilities are now located in Kootenai County. They employ about 1,170.
- In its October/November issue, Robb Report's Vacation Homes magazine features Coeur d'Alene as one of the top 10 places to buy a second home, citing strong prices and steady economies. Coeur d'Alene and the other cities were considered attractive because they are smaller towns offering skiing, hiking and other recreational activities.
- North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene reported record enrollment of 4,856 students this fall, up 4.4 percent from last fall. Fewer job opportunities for

recent high school graduates is one of the reasons for surging enrollment. Another is that the economic slowdown has convinced many adults to improve their work skills.

- The Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training Council has given North Idaho College permission to offer two classes for new law enforcement officers beginning in May. Currently, law enforcement officers in Idaho must complete a 10-week training course at the council's academy near Boise. That has inconvenienced local law enforcement agencies that have lobbied for years for an academy in northern Idaho. If the first two classes are successful, the Idaho Legislature is likely to allow the school to become a permanent law enforcement academy. North Idaho College already offers a two-year degree for students who have not been hired by a law enforcement agency.
- For 35 years, Rathdrum residents have purchased liquor inside the Dashco convenience store, a contractor that sold liquor for the state on commission. With Rathdrum's rapid population growth from 2,000 in 1990 to 6,613 in 2007, liquor sales have outgrown Dashco, so Dashco's owner is building a 3,000-square-foot liquor store across the street. He will lease the new store to the state, which will own and operate the new store on Idaho Highway 53. When the store opens in a couple of months, the state will hire five to six people.
- Parkside Luxury Condominiums, the newest high-rise in downtown Coeur d'Alene, recently signed up two commercial tenants. Fratelli Parkside, a full-service salon that will open next to Bakery By the Lake, will employ 18. Mix It Up – a store selling modern and antique furniture, lamps, mirrors, art and potted plants – will occupy 1,000 square feet next to Parkside's atrium lobby. Both tenants are scheduled to move there in early 2009.
- Resort Aviation Services spent \$1 million this year to modernize its facility at the Coeur d'Alene Airport. It renovated and increased the lobby as well as adding a kitchen, two executive seating areas and a pilots' lounge. In partnership with the county, the company repaved and striped the parking lot they share. In recent years, Resort Aviation has moved beyond the basics of refueling and hangaring visiting jets, becoming a full-service operation – making hotel reservations, ordering rental cars and providing catering. It also is a Hertz rental station. It provides the kind of service that the corporate executives and celebrities expect at world-class resort areas. As many as 30 private jets arrive daily during the summer.
- Kootenai Health, which operates Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene, purchased six North Idaho Immediate Care Centers in September for \$4.5 million. The clinics employ 23 physicians and 90 other people. The first clinic founded by Dr. Jack Riggs in 1986 is about three blocks from the medical center. Now, there also are clinics in Post Falls, Hayden, Rathdrum and Sandpoint. Together the clinics experience 50,000 patient visits each year. In a news release, Kootenai Health Chief Executive Joe Morris noted a shortage of primary care doctors in the county. The acquisition should help increase the number while improving access to care for Medicare patients, he said. With the purchase and continued expansion at the Coeur d'Alene hospital and the medical campus in Post Falls, Kootenai Health now employs about 1,930.
- Les Schwab expects to open a tire center at the intersection of Idaho Highway 53 and Idaho Highway 41 in Rathdrum this February. The 11,610-square-foot store will employ 15.

- Coeur d'Alene Hardware Do-It Center added 2,000 square feet last month, taking over space formerly occupied by the Medicine Shoppe. The new space allowed it to expand its inventory of fasteners, hardware and paint.
- Luxe is the newest store in downtown Coeur d'Alene. Its inventory includes trendy jewelry, antique furniture and gourmet candy.
- Morgio's Sandwiches opened in September in downtown Coeur d'Alene.

#### SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Sterling Mining Co. suspended silver production at the historic Sunshine Mine in Kellogg in mid-September, laying off 90 workers – 60 percent of its work force there. Sunshine Mine produced 354,000 ounces of silver in August, much less than Sterling anticipated or required to sustain operations, the company said. Sterling bought the dormant Sunshine Mine in 2003. After rehabilitating the mine, it began production in December. Sterling will prevent the mine from flooding and pursue limited exploration in the hopes of being able to restart production in the future. Many Silver Valley residents are hoping a buyer will rescue the Sunshine.
- Although silver prices have fallen from \$20.92 in early March to \$11.60 in early October, they remain far above the price most mines need to make a profit. Hecla Mining's costs of production is less than \$3 per ounce, providing it with a wide profit margin and good cash flow. Hecla's Lucky Friday mine near Mullan currently employs about 250.
- U.S. Silver in Wallace expects its expansion of the Galena Mine will reduce costs another 30 percent going into 2009. In August, Galena produced 191,000 ounces of silver, the most in its history. It is expected to produce 3.5 million to 4 million ounces of silver, lead and copper within a few years. U.S. Silver employs about 220.
- Rising incomes, more tourists and a growing population is spurring growth in restaurants in Shoshone County. Now, 44 restaurants employ 220 people. In October 2006, 38 restaurants employed 170 people. The Coyote Cafe opened in September in Mullan, which has been without a sit-down family restaurant for several years. The restaurant serves a wide variety of food for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

*Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist*  
 (208) 769-1558 ext. 3984  
[kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov)

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## NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

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### ECONOMIC UPDATES

The \$700 billion Wall Street bailout included a provision that restores compensation to rural counties with large tracts of untaxed federal forests and other federal land. The so-called Craig-Wyden funding was being phased out, and many school districts and counties in the region were preparing to make drastic cuts to their budgets. For example, Idaho County expected to see funding for its roads, schools and related projects drop from \$5.25 million to less than \$400,000, and Clearwater County had anticipated a funding reduction of \$300,000 in its roads department.

Not only did the provision restore the funding for four more years, it also increased it 75 percent. Payments in Idaho will jump from \$24 million to \$42 million. At a time when school districts and county governments are struggling

with the high cost of fuel and declining revenue from other sources because of the economic slowdown, the additional money is especially important.

Businesses on both side of the border are affected by changes in Washington's minimum wage. On the Washington side, of course, employers are required to pay the higher rate. On the Idaho side, the wages expectations of workers are influenced by Washington's rate.

Washington recently announced that its minimum wage will increase 5.9 percent from \$8.07 to \$8.55 an hour on Jan. 1. A voter initiative passed 10 years ago requires that the state's minimum wage increase each year by the August-to-August increase in the consumer price index. Idaho's minimum wage is tied to the federal minimum wage. The federal and Idaho minimum wages increased from \$5.85 to \$6.55 on July 24. They are scheduled to increase to \$7.25 next July 24.

#### *CLEARWATER COUNTY*

- Clearwater County had the highest unemployment rate in Idaho in September. Its seasonally adjusted rate rose to 9.5 percent, the first time any Idaho county's unemployment rate exceeded 9 percent since March 2007 when Clearwater's rate was 9.9 percent. In September 2007, Clearwater County unemployment rate was 5.9 percent. Problems in the forest products industry, a slowdown in hiring by federal and state agencies and reduced construction activity have pushed unemployment up.
- Idaho Transportation Department expects to start a \$2.7 million highway project in Orofino Oct. 13. Improvements to the junction of U.S. Highway 12 and Idaho Highway 7 include adding a through lane, building a retaining wall on the south side and paving a two-mile stretch of road near the bridge into Orofino. Debco Construction is the general contractor. The improvements will be completed in the spring.
- The Orofino Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Idaho Clearwater Adventures to the local business community. The business offers guided ATV tours and provides the food, gear and tents. It also rents ATVs, wave runners and cataracts. Its tours cover places of great beauty and historical interest such as Pierce, where gold was first discovered in Idaho, and Weippe, where the Lewis-Clark expedition first encountered the Nez Perce Tribe. It will operate from May 1 to Oct. 1.
- The Idaho Travel Council recently awarded a \$2,200 grant to the Pierce-Weippe Chamber of Commerce to create a map of recreational opportunities in the area.
- Work on water system improvements began in Pierce Sept. 3. The improvements, expected to take 90 days, include new pipe in downtown Pierce, water meters for all properties and a booster station to improve pressure in Whispering Pines. A \$500,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce covered preliminary costs including engineering, inspections and legal fees. The main project was funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant for \$420,000 and a \$1.2 million loan.

#### *IDAHO & LEWIS COUNTIES*

- The only forest products in high demand today are wood pellets and Presto Logs to fuel wood stoves. Rising energy costs have persuaded many Americans to rely more on pellet stoves to heat their homes. U.S. sales of pellet stoves rose from 40,000 in 2000 to 150,000 in 2006. Rocky Canyon Pellet Co., which Mel Roschelle opened three years ago in Grangeville, is enjoying strong sales growth. Last year, its sales increased 63 percent to \$1 million.
- Much of the sawdust in the pellets comes from Rocky Canyon's next-door neighbor, Bennett Forest Industries. Its pellets made from a large percent-

age of red fir do not contain any non-wood products, resulting in high heat output and low ash. These days, the pellet plant's seven full-time employees are working around the clock in three shifts.

- Here's more evidence of the growing retirement community in Riggins, a town of 400 along U.S. Highway 95 at the confluence of the Salmon and Little Salmon rivers. The Jack Beard building on Main Street – which housed various businesses over the years including a grocery store, bowling alley, ice cream parlor and hardware store – was razed in September so a 12-plex condominium building could be built.
- Bountiful Grain & Craig Mountain Railroad plans to remove 12 miles of rail on its abandoned track between Cottonwood and Ferdinand. High steel prices make sale of the rail lucrative. Even so, the railroad does not plan to remove any additional sections of track in Idaho. It plans to create a rail loading center for commodities at Craigmont. The rail line between Spalding and Grangeville was abandoned in 2000. A section between Grangeville and Cottonwood already has been removed. Removal of track between Cottonwood and Ferdinand has no effect on the line between Spalding and Kooskia, where trains still regularly run.

#### *LATAH COUNTY*

- Inc. magazine's new list of the fastest growing privately held companies in the United States includes Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. of Moscow, which provides economic consulting services and Web-based tools for analyzing regional economic and labor market data. Its customers include community colleges, work force groups and economic development organizations. According to its Web site, the company has served nearly a thousand clients in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. Founded in 1995, it specialized in regional input/output modeling. In 2000, it formed a sister company, CCbenefits, to deal specifically with the data needs of community colleges. Last year, CC Benefits was merged with EMSI, which employs more than 40 people at Alturas Technology Park.
- For the first time since 2003, enrollment at the University of Idaho is higher than the year before. Enrollment for the fall semester reached 11,791 – up 1.3 percent from 11,636 enrolled a year ago. The university aggressively recruited high school students during the last two years, spending about \$1.8 million on brochures and advertisements. About 5,000 people work for the university, which is the largest employer in Latah County. Concerns about revenue shortfalls led to the university imposing a hiring freeze in early September. Three weeks later, the governor asked all state agencies, including the colleges, to prepare for a 1 percent budget cut, which could mean a loss of \$1.4 million for the university.
- Latah County also benefits from enrollment growth at Washington State University in Pullman, just eight miles from Moscow. Washington State's enrollment rose to a record 18,000 this fall.
- Latah County residents benefit from the growth of the 1,300-employee Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories in Pullman. Although many businesses are slowing down, Schweitzer continues to accelerate. For the last five years, it normally has added 200 jobs a year. This year, it will add about 300 jobs, making it the major reason why Whitman County has seen employment increase 10.5 percent since September 2007. The company designs and manufactures products to monitor, control and meter electric power systems. It invented the first all-digital protective relay, reducing the cost and complexity of power protection and revolutionizing the industry. The U.S. economic slowdown is not affecting Schweitzer. A variety of cus-



tomers continues to need the safe, inexpensive and reliable electricity that its products help provide. The company also is introducing new products including the SEL-2440 Discrete Programmable Automation Controller, which can reroute electricity to avoid outages when switches open because of problems.

- GoNano Technologies is one of the growing businesses at the University of Idaho Business Technology Incubator in Moscow. The business developed out of collaborative research between University of Idaho physics professor David McIlroy and a Washington State University engineering professor, Grant Norton. Formed in May 2007, it develops technologies for clean-tech energy markets. It is developing technology applications for its main product – nanosprings, which have the ability to receive and store vast amounts of electrical energy in very small spaces. Unlike other processes that make nanosprings, the GoNano process is environmentally friendly and less expensive because its primary raw material is silicon while other nanosprings are made using toxic chemicals that are expensive and difficult to dispose of. GoNano's products are unique because they can be customized for more than one purpose. Among the possible commercial application are use in cell phones and laptop computers to limit the time it takes to recharge them or to act as batteries to power hybrid cars, reducing the 600-pound load the cars now carry and allowing them to be roomier. GoNano's founders believe that five years from now they will be running a manufacturing plant in the Moscow area making nanosprings for a variety of commercial applications. Margaret Howlett, the executive director of the Latah Economic Development Council that operates the incubator, says GoNano demonstrates the potential for turning university research into commercial ventures and how fortunate the area is to have two research universities to draw on.

#### *NEZ PERCE COUNTY*

- Whether a recession looms or not, the ATK ammunition plant in Lewiston is in the middle of its own economic boom. It has added about 200 workers in the last two years and now employs almost 900. It recently completed training more than 100 workers it added during the last year or so. A \$270,000 Workforce Development Training Fund grant from the Idaho Department of Labor helped defray the cost of training 117 production workers, apprentice machinists, setup workers and assembler-packagers at the small caliber ammunition plant. The average wage for new workers trained under the grant is \$12.56 an hour.
- The majority of the ammunition made in Lewiston is purchased by law enforcement under the brand name Gold Dot. In January 2007 ATK was awarded a five-year federal contract worth up to \$90 million to supply ammunition to the Department of Homeland Security, primarily Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Lewiston plant also makes the increasingly popular CCI ammunition, commonly used to shoot tin cans or rodents.
- ATK's growth has allowed Howell Machine and its sister company, Ammo Load Worldwide, to add nine employees and double revenue in the last five years. Howell Machine customizes manufacturing equipment that ATK purchases on the open market while Ammo Load Worldwide makes machines that are capable of assembling as many as 3,500 rounds of ammunition per hour for small- to medium-sized companies throughout the world. Their custom metal and plastic parts and equipment are also in demand by jet boat manufacturers and Golftek, which makes golf game simulators and analyzers. With all the growth, the two companies, which employ more than 20 people, recently remodeled the former gas station next to their location in downtown Lewiston to give them more room.



- Lewis-Clark State College enrolled 3,940 students this fall, 9 percent more than last fall. In 2001, its enrollment was less than 3,000. The economic slowdown has persuaded some youth to go to school since the construction and other jobs that were so readily available a year or two ago have disappeared. In addition, many adults are enrolling in the two-year degree and job-training programs that provide a relatively quick fix for people looking to improve their economic situation. About 800 people work for the college during the school year.
- Autumn ends tourism in much of the region, but it increases the number of cruise boats that visit the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley. The largest cruise boats, which carry over 200 passengers, come all year around. The smaller boats tend to go to Alaska in the summer and South America in the winter so more are available to travel the Columbia River from Astoria, Ore., to Lewiston in the fall and spring. Most of the cruise passengers take jet boat rides through Hells Canyon. About 11,000 people visit Lewiston every year on the cruises. The Port of Lewiston estimates they increase local revenue by about \$15 million a year.
- Kiwi Air is one of the new businesses at the Port of Clarkston. From a helipad immediately west of the Quality Inn, Mark Stanton, a native of New Zealand, offers helicopter tours lasting from 15 minutes to over two hours. The longest tour follows the Snake River into Hells Canyon then flies over Wallowa Lake before coming back along Joseph Creek Canyon.
- Winger's plans to open a 6,700-square-foot restaurant near Village Centre Cinemas and Home Depot in Lewiston in early March. The regional chain combines family dining with elements of a sports bar. Its menu includes chicken wings with a sweet and spicy sauce, steaks, salads, burgers, beer and wine. Two dozen 50-inch plasma televisions will broadcast sports throughout the restaurant, which will seat nearly 200 people and provide a banquet room for another 50.
- A Lewiston auto body shop recently received a special award for helping out the environment. Excalibur Repair was one of only nine companies state-wide to receive the award from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. A major reason is the shop's introduction of a new environmentally friendly paint. Part of the paint product can be recycled and reused, and it is reduced with water rather than solvents, reducing hazardous waste and improving the air for workers and customers.
- The growth of the clean energy industry in the Inland Northwest was a topic in the fall 2008 newsletter of the Inland Northwest Partners, a partnership of economic organizations serving northern Idaho and eastern Washington. Here's what it said about one company making news in clean energy. "Lewiston-based Coleman Oil Co. Inc. is bringing biodiesel to fuel pumps across North Idaho. The petroleum distribution company has installed two 40,000-gallon tanks to hold the biodiesel. Westminster, Colo.-headquartered Blue Sun Biodiesel LLC plans to supply the company with B20-grade biodiesel. Coleman anticipates using 500,000 gallons of biodiesel in its first year of distribution but will have the blending capability of 20,000,000 gallons per year. Coleman will supply biodiesel to retail customers including Schweitzer Mountain Resort in Sandpoint."

*Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist  
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984  
kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov*

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## SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington counties

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### AREA DEVELOPMENTS

#### ADAMS COUNTY

- Ernie's Steakhouse has opened a new location in the clubhouse at Meadow Creek Golf Resort north of New Meadows. The first Ernie's opened three years ago in Grangeville.
- Council has a new mechanic. Mike Armistead moved from Nampa and set up shop on Highway 95 next to JD's Outdoor Power. He is ASE certified and can work on both foreign and domestic vehicles.

#### ADA COUNTY

- A Boise drywall company, embroiled in a dispute with a local union over how much it pays its carpenters, has lost its subcontract on the new Boise branch library. The city asked the contractor to let Great White Drywall Inc. go after learning from the union that the company's owner had a \$2 million lien imposed by the Internal Revenue Service. The lien was for unpaid federal employee payroll, unemployment and income taxes from 2001 to 2006.
- To help taxi drivers better cope with rising fuel costs, the Boise City Council has approved a 30 cent-per-mile increase to \$2.40 a mile for cabs inside the city. Drivers, who asked for relief in April, said the high cost of gasoline has been stripping an extra \$300 to \$400 from their profits every month.
- The best air quality measurements in at least eight years could put southwestern Idaho on track to meet Environmental Protection Agency guidelines and keep its federal funding for highways. Fewer vehicle miles driven and cooler weather helped 2008 have the fewest number of air quality alerts issued by Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality since it began monitoring ozone levels in 2000. Failure to meet the federal guidelines would have put into place a federally-approved plan to improve air quality, and if it failed the region could lose highway funding.
- A Boise grocery store closed in September after three years because of disappointing sales. Ridley's Market opened in March 2005, succeeding Crane Creek Market, a gourmet grocery. From the beginning, Ridley's offered an eclectic stock, including grocery staples plus artisan cheeses, organic and local produce and meats, a deli, Dawson-Taylor coffee and sushi. But there were disappointing results in this specific location in north Boise. Ridley's is trying to relocate as many employees as possible from this store to other locations.
- About 240 employees at the Alaska Airlines Reservation Center in Boise and 1,000 workers system wide could lose their jobs in the company's announced 8 percent cut reduction. The company plans to cut flights by about 15 percent. Alaska Airlines said higher fuel costs and a weak economy were delivering a "one-two punch" to the carrier's bottom line. Capacity reductions will start Nov. 9 and continue throughout next year.
- Boise builder Ted Mason found a novel way to use the Women's Show to promote sales of his homes in a tough housing market. He brought a "home" to the Boise Centre on The Grove. The "home" was more like a theater set, designed and built by women. The home was 8 feet by 24 feet, built in 10 pieces. It had electricity but no plumbing. "So many of our home buy-

ers are women," Mason said. "Building a 'virtual home' was the best way to show how it works."

- Throughout the summer rumors have flown that Boise-based semiconductor giant Micron may purchase battered German competitor Qimonda. Analysts believe the deal is all but done. American Technology analyst Doug Freedman said in September that snapping up Qimonda now would position Micron, along with Samsung Electronic, to control supply and intellectual property as it waits out the current chip industry downturn. The acquisition would also give Micron a cheaper route to expanded capacity - converting Qimonda's fabrication facilities to Micron's processes would cost \$100 million as opposed to the \$500 million Micron planned to spend on increasing its capacity over the next year, Freedman said. No estimate was being made on the acquisition cost.
- A delegation of nine government officials from northern China spent several days in Boise during September to explore trade with Idaho. The officials from the Heilongjiang province were returning a visit by Idaho companies to their region in 2007. The Chinese delegation met with Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, visited a company that manufactures snow removal equipment, observed the bean harvest and explored several aspects of the food production process.
- Kount Inc., a Boise company providing fraud control for e-commerce merchants, has received a U.S. patent for its device fingerprinting technology. Kount officials say patent No. 7,330,871, Online Machine Data Collection and Archiving Process, describes a method for identifying a customer computer involved in an online transaction via a merchant Web site. Kount was created by Keynetics, a Boise developer of Internet businesses.
- Norco Inc., a welding, safety and medical supply company in Boise, has bought a majority share of Gases Plus, a welding and industrial supply company in Wyoming. Norco is the nation's largest privately owned welding, safety, medical and gas supplier with 42 outlets in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Nevada, Washington and Utah. The acquisition will push Norco above \$200 million in annual sales with more than 900 employees in seven states.
- Privately held DBSI, founded in Boise 29 years ago, has laid off 143 employees nationwide, including 70 in southwestern Idaho. The real estate investment firm says it is diversified enough to weather cyclical housing market slumps, but the credit freeze being created by the nation's financial meltdown has forced the layoffs. "The financial markets have simply not dried up like this since the Great Depression," said Ken Harden, senior director of marketing for DBSI.

#### *CANYON COUNTY*

- A 12-year-old Parma girl is a successful entrepreneur. Amber Shriner's business, Kool Bags Sold by a Kool Kid, sells Kold-to-Go bags that are manufactured in Georgia. The bags are made with NASA-type technology and are an environmentally friendly alternative to paper or plastic bags. The reusable, insulated shopping bags are great for cold and frozen foods and produce that won't absorb odor and bacteria. The bags can also be used to protect plants, CDs and cosmetics from the heat. Amber is passionate about the environment, and a percentage of the profits will go to the Winter Special Olympics.
- Low-priced clothing retailer Steve & Barry's will keep its Karcher Mall store open despite the chain's bankruptcy. Steve & Barry's filed for bankruptcy protection in July. It has since been purchased out of bankruptcy by BH S&B Holdings, a newly formed affiliate of investment firms Bay Harbour Manage-

ment and York Capital Management. BH S&B Holdings says it will keep open about 170 of the 276 stores that were open before bankruptcy.

- Efficiency upgrades included in four recent school construction projects will save the Nampa School District about \$33,000 annually in electricity costs. Idaho Power Co. has awarded the district \$156,929 for using energy-efficient building measures. The incentives are part of a program that encourages architects and building owners to include building efficiency measures in projects.
- The renovation of Caldwell's Franklin Interchange has unlocked promise for the Sky Ranch Business Center, providing the beginning for what city officials believe will be a center of business opportunity. The Imaging Center of Idaho, Commercial Painting Contractors, Idaho Athletic Club and Thomas Jefferson Charter School are all open in Sky Ranch. The Idaho Department of Labor opened its new office there at the end of September. And a 40,000-square-foot warehouse and packaging materials firm is under construction. Also on the way is a campus for Treasure Valley Community College.



Exterior and interior views of the Idaho Department of Labor's new Canyon County local office, located at 4514 Thomas Jefferson St. in Caldwell.

#### *ELMORE COUNTY*

- The Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission is holding four public hearings on Alternate Energy Holdings Inc.'s request to rezone approximately 1,345 acres of farmland southwest of Old Highway 30 four miles west of Hammett to heavy industrial. This is the second location for the project after fault lines were found at the original site in Owyhee County.
- Elmore County commissioners expect a big turnout for a hearing on Atlanta Power Co.'s proposal to increase revenue 60.6 percent. The company received approval in June for a 33.6 percent surcharge to cope with the failure of its hydroelectric turbine. The company has about 75 residential and commercial customers.
- Marathon Cheese, which opened its Mountain Home plant in 2007, hopes to expand its payroll from 200 now to 500 as it adds new lines and shifts. It is one of the largest independent packagers of natural cheese offering a variety of slices, chunks, shreds and waxed items.

#### *GEM COUNTY*

- Uphill Grind officially opened its drive-through coffee service in July in Emmett on Highway 16. It focuses on early morning, over-the-hill commuters and residents on the southeast side of town. It offers a wide range of coffee and drinks as well as pastries.
- Emmett was "Capital for a Day" in late July. Gov. Butch Otter, First Lady Lori and members of his cabinet spent the day visiting with residents at a buckaroo breakfast, an open forum at Carberry Intermediate School and the Gem/Boise County Fair.

- Perfect Look Salon re-opened under new management in August, catering to walk-in customers. Bilingual stylists are available. It not only provides all of the typical salon services but ear piercing, waxing and a retail section with hair care products.
- Bi-Mart, a discount retailer, will anchor a commercial development in Emmett. The company purchased 15 acres for a new store and other development. Site work on the 32,000-square-foot store is anticipated to start later this year. Up to 65 people will be employed when the store opens next summer.

#### *OWYHEE COUNTY*

- Owyhee County commissioners, facing a lean 2009, authorized employee layoffs. The work force reduction took effect in October with five full-time and three part-time positions being eliminated.
- Dairyland Seed Co. was purchased by Dow AgroSciences. Management does not expect any changes in the work force. Currently, the company employs 16 full-time and part-time workers. Dow expects to continue to market seeds under the Dairyland name.
- Homedale's Owyhee Publishing has expanded. A new, larger addition replaced the old section, originally part of the Cone Café built around 1949. The Owyhee Avalanche is located in the East Idaho Building. The expansion will add 1,500 square-feet to the company's production area.
- Snake River Lumber closed its doors in August. A slumping economy and the slowdown in the construction industry were responsible. The company has had as many as 11 employees.

#### *PAYETTE COUNTY*

- A new transit service is connecting Ontario, Ore., to Idaho communities. Snake River Transit is running two buses running from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are 12 stops in Ontario and nine stops each in Fruitland and Payette, Idaho.
- The economic downturn has not hampered Fruitland projects. Road improvements and other upgrades are on schedule with some completed. A lack of work in area has helped because local contractors are making more competitive bids to stay busy.
- Snake River Veterinary Clinic has a new veterinarian. Dr. Sarah Ahola is a certified veterinary medical acupuncturist. She believes she is only one of two in the state. Acupuncture is applied to pets to help with chronic pain.
- Bubbles & Bows, a dog grooming business, opened in Fruitland. Customers can schedule services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.
- Amai Med Spa has moved to a new location in Fruitland. The building has plenty of room and the acre of ground for future expansion. The spa offers manicures, pedicure, laser hair removal, massage therapy, facials, waxing, permanent cosmetics and soon a sunless spray tan booth.
- Subway closed in Payette in August, moving into the Wal-Mart in Ontario. The owner said Subway did not want the shop in Payette. They wanted a location closer to the freeway. Owner John Cox wants to open in Payette again, having purchased property in the community. All but one of the current employees is moving to the Wal-Mart location.
- The name of Payette's Senior Center has been changed to the Golden Rule Activity Center, reflecting the building's old name – the Golden Rule store.

The name will be followed by Home of the Payette Senior Center to keep the identity of the organization.

- D&S Factors LLC, one of Idaho's top 75 private companies, will have more space to work and an opportunity to grow after buying the student loan building just south of Fruitland. D&S Factors currently shares space with its sister enterprise, Internet Truckstop LLC in New Plymouth. By moving D&S to Fruitland for the truck invoice factoring end of the operation, both companies will have more office space and the opportunity to grow. There are 83 employees in both companies and at least 4 more will be added.

#### *VALLEY COUNTY*

- Tamarack Resort homeowners were advised in late September by Jean-Pierre Boespflug, the troubled Cascade Lake resort's chief executive, that he still wants to find a buyer with money to resume construction but will relinquish control to the lender if he can't find one by mid-October. Sheriff's sales are set for late October and December for a three-building conference center and an employee housing development. Tamarack owes \$5 million in principal and \$129,000 in interest on the center and \$995,000 on the group of worker homes. Boespflug and Alfredo Miguel Afif, the resort's owners, filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this year to stave off foreclosure by the Swiss bank Credit Suisse, which is owed \$262 million on a construction loan. Contractors have also filed 77 liens against Tamarack for more than \$22 million in unpaid bills. The liens range from \$3,000 for the installation of three computer-designed steel garage doors at a parking garage to \$1.4 million for work performed on the condominiums at Tamarack Village.
- McCall home sales and prices remain well below 2005-2006 levels, but the recent ownership change at the upscale Whitetail Club & Resort bodes well for the west central Idaho mountain town. Whitetail was reportedly sold to a company headed by current Whitetail Club President John Sabala and Boise-based Alscott Real Estate LLC. Sabala is the son-in-law of previous owner Douglas Manchester, and Alscott is headed by Joe Scott, the grandson of the late Joe Albertson. Terms of the sale were not disclosed.
- Bella Kitchen, McCall's premier kitchenware store, has relocated to the upstairs of the Hotel McCall Courtyard. The new store has three times the space.
- Rose Haven is opening in McCall, providing assisted living to local residents.
- The Idaho state parks system recently celebrated its centennial. The celebration at Ponderosa State Park included an open house at the park's new visitor center. The 3,400-square-foot facility overlooking Payette Lake has patio access for picnics and paths to the lakefront. The new center is able to expand information services for visitors and houses the park's headquarters.
- The new clubhouse at Jug Mountain Ranch opened in July. It features a pro shop, restaurant, bar, dining patios, administrative offices, a good preparation area, wine storage, a walk-in refrigerator and employee lounge. It was built with as much used material as possible. Counters in bathrooms and dining rooms are made from salvaged wood. The clubhouse will soon sport a sod roof.
- Lakeside Grille & Sushi opened at the Mile High Marina in McCall. The restaurant serves Kobe burger, Vietnamese spicy noodles with steak, gyros, Caribbean jerk pork kebabs, Mojito shrimp and sushi. The restaurant provides live music on Friday and Saturdays.



- Mountain Air 101 FM is now KMXM and part of a group of stations operated by FM Idaho Co. It will continue broadcasting from McCall. The new call letters are a result of the retirement of former owner David Eaton of KMCL-FM. Although the overall format and market positions of Mountain Air 101 changed drastically, plans are to do a portion of the morning show live with slightly different music plus more local features and local interest stories.
- McCall's Manchester Ice and Event Center celebrated its fifth anniversary in July. The center is home to McCall Figure Skating Club, an official U.S. Figure Skating club. The indoor rink provides a reliable and professional practice area. The facilities are also open to the public.
- McCall Medical Clinic is in its new building, 4,400 square feet on the hospital campus. The new clinical building provides offices, a medical procedures room, two laboratories and examination rooms for nine health care providers.
- Whitetail Resort was sold in August to a company headed by current Whitetail Club President John Sabala and Alscott Real Estate LLC of Boise. The sale included the lodge, originally built in 1948, Ema's and The Narrows restaurants; a private 18-hole golf course and underdeveloped property. Doug Manchester, a San Diego developer, purchased the former Shore Lodge in 1989, renamed it Whitetail and did extensive renovations. It was announced in early October that the new owners are dropping the Whitetail Club name and resuming the original name – Shore Lodge.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a Cascade man a \$100,000 grant to determine the feasibility of converting a geothermal resource into renewable electricity. G. David MacGregor will use the money to study geothermal energy for aquaculture and greenhouse heating and to develop a marketing plan for other geothermal uses.

#### *WASHINGTON COUNTY*

- Anchor Engineering of Weiser has signed an agreement with Reclamation Power Inc of Phoenix, Ariz., to build a 500-ton-per-day municipal solid waste disposal facility in Phoenix. Anchor, which had previously provided preliminary designs and estimates for the project, will provide general management and technical oversight. The project is expected to cost \$35 million, require six months to obtain the permits and 14 months to construct.
- Eight years ago the Weiser Architectural Preservation Committee began restoring the Weiser Depot installing new curbs and sidewalks along with outdoor lighting and some restoration of exterior features. Now the city has a \$464,250 grant from the Idaho Transportation Department for structural improvements both inside and out to enhance security and safety, preserve historic values and increase public access. The west side of the building will be converted to an office for the Idaho Heritage Trust, a statewide preservation organization. A gift of \$10,200 from the Idaho Heritage Trust was used to upgrade lighting and install a new septic tank. The depot is central to Weiser's revitalization project.
- Total Wellness Chiropractic and Holistic Care opened in August in Weiser. Dr. Jon Lindsey's uses gentle techniques along with laser and acupressure. He also focuses on alternative methods of treatment.
- The Weiser Little Theater recently purchased the Veterans Memorial Hall from the American Legion. During its 50 year history, the theater has performed in a variety of venues. Now audiences know where to show up at show time for the season opener for "Christmas Belles" in November.



- U-Name-It opened in late July. The owners, Jo and Garret Acuff, kidded each other about having enough stuff to open a secondhand store. After talking to several people and getting positive feedback, that is exactly what they did. The store offers good secondhand merchandise from small household items to refurbished appliances.

*Janell Hyer, Regional Economist Supervisor  
317 W. Main St., Boise, ID 83735  
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3220  
E-mail: [janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov)*

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## SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties

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### COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

#### *JEROME COUNTY*

- Dream Pipe Builders is a new business featuring custom tail pipes that can be individually designed at its state-of-the-art facility.
- A grand opening for the new Flex Fitness personal gym in Jerome was held in September. It provides one-on-one personal training for those that want a custom-designed routine.
- Downtown Jerome is undergoing a facelift. Specific pockets of downtown and further south are getting new streetlights, landscaping and sidewalks.

#### *GOODING COUNTY*

- Ground has been broken for the North Canyon Medical Center in Gooding. The 50,000-square-foot facility is being financed with \$30.5 million in bonds. The project is scheduled to be completed in January 2010. When North Canyon Medical Center is built, an additional 15 to 20 employees will be hired, which will bring the hospital's total staff to above 100. The hospital has partnered with St. Luke's Health System to coordinate patient care and to purchase supplies at group rates.
- Methane smells better every day, and recently methane gas was extracted from waste solids and used to fire up a barbeque grill at West Point Farms in Wendell. The digesting system's ultimate goal is to convert methane into electricity.
- The Gooding elementary and middle schools are sharing principals with the goal of greater continuity. As the kids move through the grades, their principals stay the same. This is also considered a cost saver since staff are re-aligned to ensure goals and achievements continue as normal.

#### *BLAINE COUNTY*

- Health care is expanding in Blaine County with plans for a women's imaging center. The capital campaign, steered by the St. Luke's Wood River Foundation, has set a goal to raise \$4.5 million for construction and startup, which includes equipment and staff training. The imaging center situated close to the hospital is expected to open during spring of 2009.
- Hotel Ketchum has received the green light for a \$65 million mixed-use development that includes a luxury hotel designed to revamp a prominent corner of downtown Ketchum. The city council extended the build-out period from one year to two. In the past, hospitality loans were routinely scrutinized since risk heightens when dealing with a management-intensive commercial property. However, the current economic issues complicate matters further. The community has supported the project even without a plan for creating affordable employee housing. But the developer assured

the council it is in the company's best interest to provide housing, and it has some options in the works to attract the highest caliber workers. Jack Bariteau, the developer, has a good reputation from previous projects and has a partner that owns a high-end property in Sonoma Valley, which has been named the 24<sup>th</sup> best hotel in the continental United States and Canada by Travel & Leisure Magazine. The new hotel plans to pay for an additional lane on U.S. Highway 75 and subsidize the cost of burying power lines for aesthetic reasons.

- Dirty Little Roddy's and Whiskey Jacques were destroyed by fire in September. The Sawtooth Club also experienced fire and smoke damage but has plans to reopen. Whiskey Jacques has been an integral part of the nightlife of Ketchum for 30 years with Bruce Willis an off-again, on-again ad hoc entertainer in the club. It is unclear what will be rebuilt.
- The Sun Valley Resort continues to struggle with the issue of ski pass pricing. The ability to attract a younger market to the hill is highly dependent on pricing and competition. The ski resorts located closer to large metropolitan areas are able to offer deals that provide access to a variety of different resorts for much less. Vail in Colorado, for example, is offering a pass almost 75 percent less costly than Sun Valley's annual ski pass cost of \$2,050. Sun Valley's ski count for 2007-2008 was 410,615 skier and snowboarder days, an increase of almost 50,000 over the previous season, which was considered by most as a down year due to lack of snow. The U.S. ski industry reported a record year of 60.5 million visits, which was up 2.7 percent from the previous record set during the 2005-2006 ski season. Sun Valley did not break its 2005-2006 season count of 420,517.

#### *TWIN FALLS COUNTY*

- The Urban Renewal Agency has always planned to purchase the parking lot that it rents for Dell employees. The option is up, and the price of \$1.133 million is not expected to drop. The agency has been saving money for this purpose and must exercise the option in 12 months or lose it.
- Attendance and revenue for the Twin Falls County Fair was down this year. But that was not a surprise to the fair board, mainly because of the high cost of fuel and low consumer confidence. The attendance came in at 84,316 for the six-day event, 13 percent less than the 96,000 record attendances of 2007. Gate revenue was \$314,000, down about 4.7 percent, but expenses are still being tallied so whether it was a profitable fair year has yet to be determined. The last eight years have been profitable for the fair board. The story was the same for the Magic Valley Air Show with attendance figures not up to projections, and expenses higher than anticipated. The city and county dug equally into their pockets to make up the shortfall of \$21,513.
- Immanuel Lutheran School located in the heart of Twin Falls has added four new classrooms to its existing building, making room for more pre-kindergarten students. The school has a reputable program, particularly for this early age group, and transcends religious denominations. It has an enrollment of 81 in the pre-kindergarten classes and a total enrollment of 229. There are 17 teachers. The expansion created two new teaching jobs, and one of the new classrooms is used solely for Spanish instruction. The total cost of the improvement was \$376,000.
- Ground was broken for a new medical office building on the east end of Twin Falls, across town from the hospital and the health care services around it. St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, noting the inequity of services on that side of the city located the St. Luke's Clinic Physician

Center on the other side of town. It will staff five pediatricians and five family medicine doctors. Additionally, St. Luke's Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Services and Children at Risk Evaluative Service — CARES — will be conveniently located in this facility.

- More refugees made Twin Falls their home in September, according to the College of Southern Idaho Refugee Center. This group hails from Iran, Iraq and Bhutan and combined is one of the single largest groups to arrive in this area. With up to 80 individuals, this is close to half of the yearly allocation for this region. The group will begin looking for jobs in January after completing intensive language training.
- Exit Realty has converted the former Valley Coop into 6,000 square feet of space for its realtors. The building has covered the gamut of property types, originally built as a large country western tavern and dance hall called Boot Scooters. It changed names a few times until recently when it was converted into a retail farm supply store. Its lackluster performance in comparison to the company's other stores shuttered that operation. The current office space concept fits well in the neighborhood that is diverse, vibrant and changing with new construction in almost every direction.
- Twin Falls School District has grown by 150 students this year so an emergency \$455,000 levy is being proposed to purchase additional modular classrooms for the influx of students.
- Glanbia is feeling its employees' pain and is providing fuel allowances for those commuting over 20 miles as well as a voucher for those participating in carpooling programs. Those who initially signed up to carpool received a \$50 kickoff voucher. Glanbia is the largest manufacturer of cheddar cheese in the United States, processing approximately 20 million pounds of milk daily. The corporate headquarters are in Ireland with plants in Idaho and New Mexico. The company employs over 600 workers in southern Idaho.
- A crafter's mall to entice those heading south on the Thousand Springs Scenic By-Pass is just the sort of business the community has been hoping for over the last year. Grassroots crafters will now have a retail venue with sufficient room to showcase their art and to provide classes to the community. The Buhl Winkle, complete with a metal mascot of a moose, will be located in the United Mortgage building.

#### *MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES*

- The Workforce Development Alliance officially has an executive director, some tentative by-laws, several accomplishments and many goals. Brent Tolman, formerly local office manager for Idaho Department of Labor in Burley, is the executive director of this pilot program and while still an employee of the Department of Labor has been working closely with many committees to ensure principles from the Workforce Summit in September 2007 result in sustainable economic development activity in south central Idaho. Several teachers/counselors have moved out of the schools and into businesses so they understand what the companies need and how to communicate those needs to students, who will be their future employees. These externships were extremely eye-opening, even for a couple of teachers who had lived in the community much of their lives. The Business Retention and Expansion Committee plans to work with at least 24 businesses a year. The WIRED grant and a number of partners are supporting the committee and the newly formed alliance.
- DOT Foods has completed hosted the community to a ribbon cutting after completing its new office and warehouse that complements the industrial area southwest of Burley. The company had a huge turnout of job appli-

cants for truck driving jobs, which boasted competitive salaries and benefits. There were nearly 125 applicants for each opening.

- Hy-Line North America has started construction on an egg hatchery plant. Completion is scheduled for February 2009.

*Jan Roeser, Regional Economist*

*(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984*

*Jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov*

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## SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power counties

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### ECONOMIC TRENDS

The labor force grew 3.4 percent, over 1,300, from July to August in the Pocatello metropolitan area. But only 1,100 of them found jobs, pushing the seasonally unemployment rate up a half point to 4.7 percent. The increase in labor force was not unusual for August as Idaho State University students and their spouses returned to the city along with construction workers and some employed in the Alaskan fishing industry, who had been gone since late spring. Unlike the previous several years, these workers are finding it more difficult to land suitable jobs in the area this year.

Preliminary estimates indicate a year-to-year loss of 2,370 nonfarm jobs. The goods-producing industries shed just 440, nearly all in construction, where home building has slowed considerably and many commercial jobs are being completed.

The service sector suffered the brunt of the job losses over the previous 12 months, aggravated by 200 in retail with the shutdown in July of Dillard's Department Store. The government also scaled back hiring because of anticipated budget cuts due to a slowing economy. Lagging temporary employment accounted for a third of the lost service-sector jobs as the national economic slowdown made employers less likely to ramp up during the summer. A reduction in summer road construction jobs which require flaggers and landscaping crews also contributed to the loss of business service jobs. See southeastern Idaho labor force table on page 48.

Rising unemployment rates in southeastern Idaho counties has perplexed some, who see more people working than in the past and no spike in workers drawing unemployment benefits. Based on actual unemployment rates and people employed in each county, all but one county showed a significant increase in the unemployment rate while three posted increases in the number of workers from August 2007. Table II helps demonstrate the affect a small change in number of workers or unemployed can have in sparsely populated areas. See tables on next page for unemployment rates for southeastern Idaho counties.

For example, Oneida County's unemployment rate this August is about two and a half times greater than last year while 18 more people were working. This reflects the lay-off of workers from the Tremonton, Utah, LaZBoy furniture plant.

The reason for the large difference in the unemployment rate in Power County was the timing of the summer layoff at Con-Agra.

### ECONOMIC INDICATORS CAN HELP FORECAST

An employer recently requested a forecast of the chances her business would meet sales expectations and whether it should be expanded. She was provided information on employment-related issues such as the availability of workers for her business and the pay range for her employees along with some ideas about non-monetary compensation. But what she wanted were other re-

County	Aug 2007 Unemployment Rate Benchmarked	Aug 2008 Unemployment Rate Forecast
Bannock	2.80%	4.40%
Bear Lake	2.30%	3.30%
Bingham	3.10%	5.10%
Caribou	3.00%	4.40%
Franklin	1.80%	2.80%
Oneida	1.40%	3.40%
Power	8.90%	6.80%
State of Idaho	2.70%	4.60%

County	Aug 2007 Total Employed Benchmarked	Aug 2008 Total Employed Forecast	# Difference
Bannock	39,119	37,988	(1,131)
Bear Lake	2,978	3,064	86
Bingham	20,110	20,114	4
Caribou	3,182	3,080	(102)
Franklin	6,170	6,157	(13)
Oneida	2,231	2,249	18
Power	3,690	3,583	(107)
Region	77,480	76,235	(1,245)
State of Idaho	736,608	720,168	(16,440)

sources and forecasting ideas. She was urged to review the economic indicators listed by the Bureau of Economics Analysis at [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov), the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm> and the U.S. Census Bureau at <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/briefroom/BriefRm>. The list is long and at times difficult to interpret. But this businesswoman was more interested in the economic indicators that are “easily understood by people who do not have degrees in statistics or economics.”

#### Here's a guide to those indicators.

**Help-Wanted Index** - This index is published each month by the Conference Board, which monitors the number of help wanted advertisements in major newspapers across the country as an indicator of strength or weakness in the national labor markets. The theory is that the more help wanted ads there are, the stronger the economy.

**Aspirin Count Theory** - The idea here is that the economy and the use of aspirin are inversely related. The theory would be considered a lagging indicator and likely has never been tested.

**Soccer Mom Indicator**- This is another lagging indicator based on the theory that listening to what people are talking about at soccer games (besides soccer) is one of the best ways to find out how the economy is doing.

**Skirt Length Theory** - This well-known theory promotes the ideas that longer skirts mean the economy is going down and shorter skirt length mean the markets are going up. The theory has been studied, but it seems there is no general consensus as to its reliability.

**Harvard MBA Indicator** – This has been used to predict changes in the stock market. If more than 30 percent of a Harvard class graduating with master's in business administration take jobs in investment banking, securities sales or venture capital firms, it is a signal the market is set to go down. Conversely, if less than 10 percent take jobs in the same sector, it is a signal the market will like rise. This theory is based on the idea that when everyone else is looking to get in, it's time to get out.

**Leading Lipstick Indicator** - This theory is believed to have originated from comments made by the chairman of Estee Lauder, Leonard Lauder, who recognized a consistent buying pattern by his customers. When economic times were tough, lipstick sales went up. The theory has been found applicable to other consumer items as well. The theory can be explained in more general terms as: When consumers face uncertain economic times, they tend to purchase less expensive indulgences such as lipstick.

**Cardboard Box Index** - Considered to be a relatively good measure, this index gauges industrial production by directly connecting the production of cardboard boxes with the purchase of non-durable consumer goods. Estimates vary, but it seems generally accepted that nearly 75 percent of all nondurable goods are shipped in corrugated containers. Therefore it seems reasonable to conclude that the more boxes being made, the more goods companies are planning to produce.

**Super Bowl Indicator** - Strange as it seem this indicator is nearly 85 percent correct. The theory is that a Super Bowl win by a team from the old American Football League, now called the AFC division of the National Football League, foretells a downturn in the stock market for the coming year. Conversely a win by a team from the old National Football League, now the NFC division of the National Football League, is an indication of a raising stock market in the year to follow.

*NFC champion New York Giants beat AFC champion New England Patriots, 17-14, on Feb.3, 2008. This would be one of the 15 percent years.*

There is no consensus among economists about any indicator being the best for ascertaining future economic developments. However, it is generally agreed that the indicators and trends listed by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Bureau of Labor Statistics or the Census Bureau will most likely keep business people informed about important trends and events, which will directly impact the economy.

## COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

### BANNOCK COUNTY

- Hoku Materials announced two large 10-year polysilicon sales contracts with Chinese companies. A \$227 million contract with a Tianwei New Energy Wafer Co. calls for deliveries to begin in mid-2010. Tianwei has pre-paid \$10 million. The other with Solargiga Energy Holdings Ltd could be worth up to \$455 million over a decade. The deal requires prepayments of \$22 million upon signing, \$21 million by Dec. 20, \$20 million by March 31 and \$5 million upon receiving the first shipment. Both agreements grant some security interest in the Pocatello plant, which is currently under construction.
- Whisper Creek Log Homes has been manufacturing homes at its Pocatello plant since mid-April of this year. The company has delivered more than 60 custom designed and pre-built log homes to customers in about a 600 mile radius of Pocatello. General Manager Mark Isfeld indicated the company expects to use between 2,500 and 3,000 feet of wood each week in the construction of decorative components.
- Scientists and researchers from the Idaho Accelerator Center and the Idaho National Laboratory were recognized during a Homeland Security Awards ceremony for developing a system that identifies illegal nuclear materials from a remote location.
- The Pocatello City Council approved a zoning change for construction of the much-anticipated South Valley Connector, which will connect South Bannock Highway to South Fifth Avenue. Engineering and land acquisition are



beginning now, and optimistic projections call for construction to begin late 2010.

- Improvements to U.S. Highway 30 between Lava Hot Springs and McCammon, known as the Topaz to Lava section, have been completed. Money to improve other sections of the highway remains uncertain. The 3.3-mile project cost in excess of \$20 million and was financed by Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle, or GARVEE, bonds.

#### *BEAR LAKE COUNTY*

- Several new houses are being completed this fall in the Foothills Subdivision north of Montpelier, many part of self-help programs being promoted by the Bear Lake Housing Coalition and Southeast Idaho Community Action Agency. Self-help programs give people who will live in the homes an opportunity to gain equity by helping build the homes. Self-help housing is not synonymous with low-income housing. Most of these homes have two car garages, four bedrooms with baths and small walk-in closets in the master bedrooms and modern kitchens.

#### *BINGHAM COUNTY*

- The firm that proposed building a multimillion-dollar plant which would convert solid waste into energy and material used to make press board wants the Bingham County Commission to join it as a limited partner to facilitate financing. Logite, the firm proposing the plant, intended to use one technology, but it was sold to General Motors so now Logite hopes to use technology developed by a German firm and distributed by Powerhouse Energy of California. Powerhouse Energy has a proven record in designing, building and installing over 400 plants worldwide.
- Ridley's Family Markets is purchasing Albertsons Supermarket in Blackfoot. Albertsons employees who chose not to transfer within the company will be given high consideration for employment in the same or similar positions with the new owners. Ridley's, based in Utah, now owns 16 stores, 12 in Idaho.
- Fort Hall Indian Reservation officials are changing the way contracts for leasing land are negotiated. All land leases are now awarded on competitive bids. It is the first time in the 30 years since large-scale leasing began that competitive bidding has taken place. All bids must meet or exceed the appraised rental rate for the land, and five years is the maximum time for each lease. Additionally farmers on the leased land will be required to submit crop reports to help establish future rental rates.
- Appeals have been filed against last month's approval by Bingham County commissioners of the Goshen South and Cedar Creek wind farm projects. Both appeals can take up to 12 months and were assigned to 7<sup>th</sup> District Judge Darren B. Simpson, who subsequently recused himself and asked the Idaho Supreme Court to appoint judges to review the appeals
- Blackfoot-based Premier Technology and the Center for Advanced Energy Studies have signed an agreement to collaborate on research. As part of the partnership, Premier donated a radiation material glove box, which the company manufactures, valued at \$60,000 to the center's new \$17 million research facility.
- Atomic City with a population of about 80 people hosted one of the largest race car events in the Northwest in the International Motor Contest Association's Wild West Tour Sept. 13-14. The Wild West tour makes eight stops around the country before ending in Las Vegas. Approximate 450 fans were at the Atomic Motor Raceway.



- Attendance at the Eastern Idaho State Fair was down a little from last year's record 214,000 despite having a single day attendance record on opening day. Fair officials attribute the drop mostly to unfortunate weather conditions, and some feel higher gas prices kept some folks away.

#### *CARIBOU COUNTY*

- A lawsuit has been filed in U.S. District Court challenging the U.S. Forest Service's decision allowing the J.R. Simplot Co. to build roads and power lines outside its existing lease for expansion of the Smoky Canyon Mine. The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, National Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife along with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are involved in the lawsuit, which claims the expansion will result in more pollution of streams and springs in southeastern Idaho. Simplot officials indicated the phosphate production plant in Power County, which employs approximately 350 workers, will be directly impacted by any decision regarding the phosphate mine in Caribou County.
- U.S. News and World Report listed both North Gem High School and Grace High School among the best in the nation. Nationally 1,000 schools from more than 18,000 were listed. The state of Idaho had 21 schools recognized in the report.

#### *FRANKLIN COUNTY*

- The million-dollar reconstruction of the main street through Preston, South State, is nearly complete. Approximately 7 percent of the project was financed by the city with the rest coming from the federal government. The wider road with a center turn lane and bicycle path has better road drainage, new curbing and new sidewalks.
- The Williams Co. has started surveying property in Franklin County for a proposed 585-mile natural gas line from Wyoming to Oregon. Most of the proposed route is called the Sunstone Pipeline and would transport up to 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day. The Williams Co. believes the pipeline would mostly follow existing right of way, which it already owns.
- Prisoners in the Franklin County Jail were transported to the Caribou County Jail after the American Civil Liberties Union claimed inadequate supervision. The Franklin County Jail has been under scrutiny since September 2007 when an inmate committed suicide. Inmates will continue to be housed in other facilities pending the recommendations from Rocky Mountain Corrections, which is evaluating the jail and its operation.

#### *ONEIDA COUNTY*

- The Malad Chamber of Commerce will conduct a campaign to encourage local residents to shop in Malad beginning in time for the traditional Christmas shopping season. The chamber has 96 members. The chamber would develop a Web site, which would allow residents to compare costs of shopping in Malad versus traveling elsewhere.

#### *POWER COUNTY*

- A District Court ruling is being evaluated carefully by Power County officials before proceeding with plans to partner with the Idaho Department of Correction and Rocky Mountain Corrections on a new jail in American Falls. The ruling indicates that counties cannot force multiple years of indebtedness on taxpayers without voter approval.
- Air quality permit public hearings are being held throughout southeastern Idaho by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on the proposed \$1 billion fertilizer plant, which will use coal gasification to produce nitrogen-based fertilizer. Evaluation of processes for the permit being pursued

by the Power County Advanced Energy Center is expected to take approximately two months.

*Scott Hobdey Regional Economist  
(208) 236-6710, ext. 3713  
scott.hobdey@labor.idaho.gov*

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## EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison & Teton counties

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### ECONOMIC TRENDS

Unemployment rates across Idaho have been climbing significantly during 2008, but even with that increase, the Idaho Falls metropolitan area continues to have one of the lowest rates in the nation.

In August, Idaho Falls recorded an unadjusted rate of 3.1 percent. While nearly a point and a half higher than a year earlier, that was the seventh lowest rate among the nation's 369 metropolitan areas. Sioux Falls, S.Dak., posted the lowest rate at 2.6 percent followed by Bismarck, N.Dak., Rapid City, S.Dak. and Morgantown, W.Va., at 2.8 percent. Logan, Utah, was at 2.9 percent, and Lincoln, Neb., at 3 percent.

Population is still on the rise in the metro area, and that has kept the commercial sector expanding, fueled by comparatively low wage rates. The Idaho National Laboratory and the thousands of people it employs, many of them scientists, researchers and engineers, has also helped to buffer the region from the worst of economic downturns.

The fact that the city is a financial, retail and health care hub for tens of thousands of people within a 100-mile radius has kept those sectors relatively strong as well.

### SALMON MARATHON PUTS TOWN ON MAP

A lot of small towns in east central Idaho are only known to those living close by. But Salmon has been attracting people from all over the world for many years, most notably for hunting and fishing trips. And now there's something new to make Salmon's spot on the map a little bigger and attract a whole different group of people – athletes.

This was the first year for the Salmon Marathon, a 26.2-mile race starting from the Tendoy School and ending at Salmon's Island Park. The race drew 129 runners, and Chuck Teixeira of California won in two hours, 52 minutes and 38 seconds to celebrate his 49<sup>th</sup> birthday. Several of the runners qualified for next April's Boston Marathon. The field representing 23 states boasted both first-time marathoners and veterans with as many as 50 marathons to their credit. Many stayed for the festivities the city offered after the race.

One woman, Kathy Gatens, was the reason. An avid runner who has participated in marathons for 11 years, Gatens was looking for ways to raise money to support the Whitewater Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Association. Holding bake sales was becoming a tedious and ineffective way to raise money for the association, which she directs and works as an instructor certified by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association. The marathon was 13 months in the making, developing a safety plan and coordination city, county and marathon efforts for runners and visitors.

The \$55 participant registration included a long-sleeved t-shirt, finisher's medal, pre-race pasta dinner and post-race celebration including a traditional bluegrass concert. Members of the Salmon Back County Horsemen were also stationed along the route. Runners and visitors praised the course and the beauty of the area where people can run a marathon through real western scenery past mounted horsemen? Word of mouth should be a major marketing tool. Gatens personally talked to the homeowners along the route so they would know what to expect. She asked them to contain their pets during the race.

Ranchers who had planned to move cattle between pastures willingly rearranged schedules. Many businesses offered sales to capitalize on the influx of visitors. All marathon activities and materials were provided by local businesses. Gatens called it a huge boon to the local economy. There were as many volunteers as race participants, and the city was a huge help. Although bills are still coming in, Gatens said the money raised for the Whitewater Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Association was "a lot better than bake sales."

Salmon City Council unanimously approved making the marathon a yearly event, and the next one is scheduled for Sept. 12, 2009. Pictures are on the Web at <http://salmonmarathon.com/>.

## **AREA DEVELOPMENTS:**

### **BONNEVILLE COUNTY**

- The Rogers Downtown Mall in Idaho Falls is now operating Wednesday through Friday. Infinity Coins, Hand Reading by Maurice's, a homemade jewelry store and a video and electronics store are among the retailers in the 2,000-square-foot space.
- A multi-story, mixed-use development is planned for the empty Saving Center building in downtown Idaho Falls directly across from the falls on the Snake River. The Saving Center closed earlier this year after almost 70 years of operation. The new development will include commercial, office and residential space with underground parking. Since it is in the Snake River Urban Renewal Area, property taxes will be used for sidewalks, water, sewer and streets. Developer River Front Properties LLC plans a state-of-the-art, green facility that will blend in with the historic downtown. Shirley Chastain of the Downtown Development Corporation predicts the project will greatly contribute to the economy, creating a gathering place for residents and tourists alike.
- The Idaho Falls Regional Airport reopened early after a month-long reconstruction of its main runway. The earlier resumption of operations was made at the request of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney so he could fly into Idaho Falls for a campaign fundraiser for Lt. Gov. Jim Risch, who is running for the U.S. Senate. The runway closed Sept. 2 so 5,000 feet of the main landing strip could be repaved and the lighting system re-wired. The strip's remaining 4,000 feet will be resurfaced and the entire runway grooved to prevent hydroplaning in November during the night hours. A shorter runway was kept open during the construction project, but very limited travel could take place on that. Suspended flights from Allegiant Air, Skywest/Delta, Northwest Airlink and United Express resumed as scheduled on Oct. 2.

### **BUTTE COUNTY**

- Premier Technology announced plans for a manufacturing plant in Mackay. Construction will start this spring, and the plant will begin operating in early 2010 with up to 50 employees. Wages will average \$40,000 to \$60,000. The company will also train workers in the skills needed at the plant. Premier chose Mackay as part of its Rural Outreach Partners program to provide good-paying jobs for young people, especially recent high school graduates, in rural communities. Mackay expects to get a grant from Department of Commerce for new roads, extended water and sewer lines and upgraded power facilities. Premier already has plants in Chubbuck and Blackfoot and does business with the Idaho National Laboratory and many others companies. The Mackay plant would manufacture material for the U.S. Department of Defense.

*Tanya Albán, Regional Economist  
(208) 557-2500, ext. 3587  
[tanya.alban@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:tanya.alban@labor.idaho.gov)*

# State of Idaho Data

June 2008 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to May 2007 data *(continued on next page)*.

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Civilian Labor Force	Aug 2008			Civilian Labor Force	Aug 2007		
		# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment		# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
STATE OF IDAHO	754,812	34,644	4.6	720,168	756,842	20,234	2.7	736,608
COUNTIES								
ADA (1)	193,886	8,498	4.4	185,388	197,806	4,794	2.4	193,013
ADAMS	2,102	169	8.1	1,933	2,105	84	4.0	2,022
BANNOCK (8)	39,757	1,769	4.4	37,988	40,243	1,125	2.8	39,119
BEAR LAKE	3,168	104	3.3	3,064	3,049	70	2.3	2,978
BENEWAH	4,035	286	7.1	3,749	3,899	190	4.9	3,709
BINGHAM	21,187	1,073	5.1	20,114	20,745	635	3.1	20,110
BLAINE (5)	14,660	467	3.2	14,193	14,431	251	1.7	14,180
BOISE (1)	3,682	174	4.7	3,508	3,737	84	2.3	3,653
BONNER	21,754	1,041	4.8	20,713	21,098	639	3.0	20,459
BONNEVILLE (6)	51,432	1,694	3.3	49,738	50,408	996	2.0	49,412
BOUNDARY	4,212	293	7.0	3,919	4,114	199	4.8	3,915
BUTTE	1,598	59	3.7	1,539	1,464	28	1.9	1,436
CAMAS (5)	656	23	3.5	633	647	14	2.2	633
CANYON (1)	82,933	5,048	6.1	77,885	83,882	2,794	3.3	81,088
CARIBOU	3,222	142	4.4	3,080	3,280	98	3.0	3,182
CASSIA (2)	9,978	406	4.1	9,572	9,954	303	3.0	9,651
CLARK	550	28	5.1	521	552	11	2.0	541
CLEARWATER	3,216	280	8.7	2,936	3,246	191	5.9	3,055
CUSTER	2,575	107	4.1	2,469	2,612	67	2.5	2,545
ELMORE	11,192	555	5.0	10,637	11,111	408	3.7	10,703
FRANKLIN	6,332	175	2.8	6,157	6,282	112	1.8	6,170
FREMONT (9)	6,319	231	3.7	6,087	6,266	144	2.3	6,122
GEM (1)	7,357	457	6.2	6,900	7,390	206	2.8	7,184
GOODING	8,544	263	3.1	8,281	8,214	140	1.7	8,074
IDAHO	7,331	437	6.0	6,895	7,316	297	4.1	7,020
JEFFERSON (6)	11,367	412	3.6	10,954	11,104	223	2.0	10,881
JEROME (10)	10,281	366	3.6	9,915	10,344	235	2.3	10,109
KOOTENAI (3)	70,014	3,615	5.2	66,399	70,347	1,833	2.6	68,514
LATAH	17,845	552	3.1	17,293	17,628	320	1.8	17,308
LEMHI	4,171	234	5.6	3,937	4,116	151	3.7	3,966
LEWIS (4)	1,812	75	4.1	1,737	1,803	35	1.9	1,769
LINCOLN	2,492	130	5.2	2,363	2,488	61	2.4	2,427
MADISON (9)	15,545	369	2.4	15,177	15,501	235	1.5	15,266
MINIDOKA (2)	9,417	516	5.5	8,901	9,350	375	4.0	8,975
NEZ PERCE (7)	18,058	750	4.2	17,308	18,797	512	2.7	18,285
ONEIDA	2,327	78	3.4	2,249	2,263	32	1.4	2,231
OWYHEE (1)	4,661	117	2.5	4,543	4,795	65	1.4	4,730
PAYETTE	10,418	697	6.7	9,721	10,522	448	4.3	10,074
POWER (8)	3,844	261	6.8	3,583	4,052	363	8.9	3,690
SHOSHONE	6,145	455	7.4	5,689	5,576	244	4.4	5,332
TETON	5,337	160	3.0	5,177	5,042	65	1.3	4,977
TWIN FALLS (10)	38,692	1,457	3.8	37,234	38,814	854	2.2	37,960
VALLEY	5,610	372	6.6	5,238	5,495	152	2.8	5,343
WASHINGTON	5,097	247	4.9	4,849	5,107	153	3.0	4,954
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,357	679	6.6	9,678	10,321	426	4.1	9,895

\* In thousands

## State of Idaho Data

June 2008 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to May 2007 data *(continued from previous page).*

Seasonally Adjusted Data		Aug 2008			Aug 2007			
LABOR MARKET AREAS	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	292,519	14,294	4.9	278,225	297,610	7,943	2.7	289,667
BURLEY MicSA (2)	19,395	922	4.8	18,473	19,304	678	3.5	18,626
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	70,014	3,615	5.2	66,399	70,347	1,833	2.6	68,514
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	9,143	511	5.6	8,632	9,120	331	3.6	8,788
HAILEY SLMA (5)	15,317	490	3.2	14,827	15,078	265	1.8	14,813
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	62,799	2,106	3.4	60,693	61,512	1,219	2.0	60,293
LEWISTON MSA (7)	28,415	1,429	5.0	26,986	29,117	937	3.2	28,180
POCATELLO MSA (8)	43,601	2,030	4.7	41,571	44,296	1,487	3.4	42,808
REXBURG MicSA (9)	21,864	600	2.7	21,264	21,767	378	1.7	21,388
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	48,973	1,823	3.7	47,150	49,158	1,089	2.2	48,069
CITIES								
BOISE	111,436	4,964	4.5	106,472	112,718	2,686	2.4	110,032
CALDWELL	17,442	1,194	6.8	16,248	17,351	561	3.2	16,791
COEUR D' ALENE	22,373	1,266	5.7	21,107	22,170	551	2.5	21,619
IDAHO FALLS	29,100	958	3.3	28,141	28,303	553	2.0	27,750
LEWISTON	15,230	636	4.2	14,594	15,575	402	2.6	15,173
MERIDIAN	31,515	1,452	4.6	30,063	31,834	765	2.4	31,069
NAMPA	36,667	2,132	5.8	34,535	36,867	1,177	3.2	35,690
POCATELLO	29,186	1,199	4.1	27,987	29,321	713	2.4	28,608
TWIN FALLS	21,283	887	4.2	20,396	21,103	464	2.2	20,640
United States*	154,853	9,376	6.1	145,477	152,886	7,133	4.7	145,753

\* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs.

# State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

% change from

BY PLACE OF WORK	Aug 2008*	Jul 2008	Aug 2007	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	<b>660,900</b>	<b>658,900</b>	<b>665,900</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>119,300</b>	<b>119,800</b>	<b>128,100</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-6.9</b>
<i>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</i>	5,200	5,300	5,000	-1.9	4.0
Logging	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
Mining	3,200	3,300	3,000	-3.0	6.7
Metal Ore Mining	1,400	1,400	1,000	0.0	40.0
<i>Construction</i>	51,700	51,400	56,600	0.6	-8.7
<i>Manufacturing</i>	62,400	63,100	66,500	-1.1	-6.2
Durable Goods	39,100	39,800	42,100	-1.8	-7.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	6,400	6,600	7,800	-3.0	-17.9
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,000	2,000	2,500	0.0	-20.0
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,200	1,300	1,500	-7.7	-20.0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,200	3,300	3,800	-3.0	-15.8
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	5,000	5,000	4,800	0.0	4.2
Machinery Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,100	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	14,000	13,900	15,600	0.7	-10.3
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,500	3,500	3,600	0.0	-2.8
Other Durable Goods	7,100	7,700	7,200	-7.8	-1.4
Nondurable Goods	23,300	23,300	24,400	0.0	-4.5
Food Manufacturing	14,900	14,800	15,500	0.7	-3.9
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,300	7,400	8,000	-1.4	-8.8
Paper Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,800	1,800	1,900	0.0	-5.3
Chemical Manufacturing	2,400	2,500	2,300	-4.0	4.3
Other Nondurable Goods	2,500	2,500	3,000	0.0	-16.7
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>541,600</b>	<b>539,100</b>	<b>537,800</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i>	132,100	132,400	133,800	-0.2	-1.3
Trade	111,000	111,600	112,600	-0.5	-1.4
Wholesale Trade	28,100	28,200	28,400	-0.4	-1.1
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	13,200	13,300	13,300	-0.8	-0.8
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,600	11,600	12,100	0.0	-4.1
Retail Trade	82,900	83,400	84,200	-0.6	-1.5
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,900	12,800	12,900	0.8	0.0
Building Material and Garden Equipment	9,400	9,600	9,900	-2.1	-5.1
Food & Beverage Stores	12,500	12,500	12,700	0.0	-1.6
General Merchandise Stores	17,300	17,400	17,000	-0.6	1.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	21,100	20,800	21,200	1.4	-0.5
Utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	19,000	18,700	19,100	1.6	-0.5
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,500	9,400	9,500	1.1	0.0
<i>Information</i>	11,300	11,300	11,000	0.0	2.7
Telecommunications	4,100	4,200	3,900	-2.4	5.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	32,700	32,600	32,900	0.3	-0.6
Finance & Insurance	23,400	23,400	23,700	0.0	-1.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,300	9,200	9,200	1.1	1.1
<i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>	85,200	83,900	86,100	1.5	-1.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	33,700	33,400	33,700	0.9	0.0
Scientific Research & Development	7,700	7,800	5,800	-1.3	32.8
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,300	7,500	8,000	-2.7	-8.8
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	44,200	43,000	44,400	2.8	-0.5
Administrative & Support Services	43,300	41,800	42,100	3.6	2.9
<i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>	76,000	75,500	73,800	0.7	3.0
Educational Services	7,700	7,600	7,300	1.3	5.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	68,300	67,900	66,500	0.6	2.7
Hospitals	16,800	16,700	16,000	0.6	5.0
<i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>	68,700	68,200	68,100	0.7	0.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11,000	10,600	11,100	3.8	-0.9
Accommodation & Food Services	57,700	57,600	57,000	0.2	1.2
Accommodation	10,600	10,600	10,100	0.0	5.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	47,100	47,000	46,900	0.2	0.4
<i>Other Services</i>	20,600	20,400	20,100	1.0	2.5
<i>Total Government</i>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>114,800</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Federal Government	14,800	15,000	14,000	-1.3	5.7
State & Local Government	100,200	99,800	98,000	0.4	2.2
State Government	29,100	28,600	27,700	1.7	5.1
State Government Education	12,600	12,000	11,800	5.0	6.8
State Government Administration	16,500	16,600	15,900	-0.6	3.8
Local Government	71,100	71,200	70,300	-0.1	1.1
Local Government Education	33,200	33,200	33,500	0.0	-0.9
Local Government Administration	34,200	34,400	33,300	-0.6	2.7
Local Government Tribes	3,700	3,600	3,500	2.8	5.7

\*Preliminary estimate \*\* Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

# State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

	Aug 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	754,800	753,000	756,800	0.2	-0.3
Unemployment	34,600	30,900	20,200	12.0	71.3
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.1	2.7		
Total Employment	720,200	722,100	736,600	-0.3	-2.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	760,000	762,800	757,100	-0.4	0.4
Unemployment	31,700	27,700	17,700	14.4	79.1
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	3.6	2.3		
Total Employment	728,300	735,100	739,400	-0.9	-1.5
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>(2)</sup>					
	6.1	5.7	4.7		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>(2)</sup>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	215.2	216.3	203.2	-0.5	5.9
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	219.1	220.0	207.9	-0.4	5.4
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	48,860	48,770	49,030	0.2	-0.3
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	350	350	350	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	38,770	38,680	38,940	0.2	-0.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	9,016	8,709	5,663	3.5	59.2
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	53,641	54,696	36,004	-1.9	49.0
<i>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></i>					
Weeks Compensated	43,575	52,972	28,761	-17.7	51.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid	10,898,025	13,433,843	6,931,313	-18.9	57.2
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$250.10	\$253.60	\$241.00	-1.4	3.8
Covered Employers	50,958	51,443	50,938	-0.9	0.0
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$186,091,562	\$178,128,426	\$117,126,153	4.5	58.9

(1) Preliminary estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on intrastate and interstate agent, new and additional claims.

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, intrastate and interstate agent.

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, total liable activities.



# Panhandle Data

## Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment — Kootenai County

	Aug 2008*	Jul 2007	Aug 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	70,010	70,060	70,350	-0.1	-0.5
Unemployed	3,620	3,060	1,830	18.3	97.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	4.4	2.6		
Total Employment	66,390	67,000	68,520	-0.9	-3.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,010	71,640	71,070	-0.9	-0.1
Unemployed	3,080	2,700	1,490	14.1	106.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	3.8	2.1		
Total Employment	67,930	68,940	69,580	-1.5	-2.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	58,960	58,980	59,380	0.0	-0.7
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	10,970	11,030	11,850	-0.5	-7.4
Natural Resources & Mining	460	460	480	0.0	-4.2
Construction	5,860	5,850	6,610	0.2	-11.3
Manufacturing	4,650	4,720	4,760	-1.5	-2.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	770	790	930	-2.5	-17.2
Other Manufacturing	3,880	3,930	3,830	-1.3	1.3
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	47,990	47,950	47,530	0.1	1.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	11,340	11,390	11,300	-0.4	0.4
Wholesale Trade	1,660	1,680	1,610	-1.2	3.1
Retail Trade	8,600	8,640	8,490	-0.5	1.3
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,080	1,070	1,200	0.9	-10.0
Information	970	970	970	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	3,180	3,150	3,160	1.0	0.6
Professional & Business Services	6,230	6,140	6,270	1.5	-0.6
Educational & Health Services	5,940	5,940	5,700	0.0	4.2
Leisure & Hospitality	9,500	9,470	9,420	0.3	0.8
Other Services	1,690	1,670	1,570	1.2	7.6
Government Education	2,890	2,780	2,860	4.0	1.0
Government Administration	5,270	5,460	5,380	-3.5	-2.0
Government Tribes	980	980	900	0.0	8.9

\* Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

# North Central Idaho Data

Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment — Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Wash.

	Aug 2008*	Jul 2008	Aug 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,420	27,950	29,120	1.7	-2.4
Unemployment	1,430	1,390	940	2.9	52.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.0	3.2		
Total Employment	26,990	26,560	28,180	1.6	-4.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,330	28,340	28,740	0.0	-1.4
Unemployment	1,370	1,250	880	9.6	55.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.4	3.1		
Total Employment	26,960	27,090	27,860	-0.5	-3.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	27,760	27,760	27,510	0.0	0.9
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,990	4,880	5,070	2.3	-1.6
Natural Resources & Mining	190	190	230	0.0	-17.4
Construction	1,640	1,430	1,480	14.7	10.8
Manufacturing	3,160	3,260	3,360	-3.1	-6.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	560	580	600	-3.4	-6.7
Paper Manufacturing	1,130	1,130	1,140	0.0	-0.9
Other Manufacturing	1,470	1,550	1,620	-5.2	-9.3
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,770	22,880	22,450	-0.5	1.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,540	5,620	5,530	-1.4	0.2
Wholesale Trade	550	620	700	-11.3	-21.4
Retail Trade	3,750	3,740	3,630	0.3	3.3
Utilities	100	100	90	0.0	11.1
Transportation & Warehousing	1,140	1,160	1,110	-1.7	2.7
Information	390	390	400	0.0	-2.5
Financial Activities	2,140	2,160	2,130	-0.9	0.5
Professional & Business Services	1,960	1,960	1,630	0.0	20.2
Education & Health Services	4,090	4,090	4,230	0.0	-3.3
Leisure & Hospitality	2,850	2,810	2,730	1.4	4.4
Other Services	1,050	1,050	1,100	0.0	-4.5
Government Education	2,030	2,070	1,970	-1.9	3.0
Government Administration	1,970	1,990	2,020	-1.0	-2.5
Government Tribes	750	740	710	1.4	5.6

\*Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

# Southwestern Idaho Data

## Boise-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment — Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties

	Aug 2008*	Jul 2007	Aug 2007	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	292,500	291,100	297,600	0.5	-1.7
Unemployment	14,300	13,300	7,900	7.5	81.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.6	2.7		
Total Employment	278,200	277,800	289,700	0.1	-4.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	292,700	295,400	295,700	-0.9	-1.0
Unemployment	13,600	12,100	7,300	12.4	86.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.1	2.5		
Total Employment	279,100	283,300	288,400	-1.5	-3.2
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	275,600	275,800	276,700	-0.1	-0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	50,600	51,400	55,000	-1.6	-8.0
<i>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</i>	22,000	22,400	24,300	-1.8	-9.5
Construction	21,600	22,000	24,000	-1.8	-10.0
<i>Manufacturing</i>	28,600	29,000	30,700	-1.4	-6.8
Durable Goods	22,000	22,200	23,900	-0.9	-7.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,200	2,100	2,500	4.8	-12.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	12,600	12,300	13,700	2.4	-8.0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,200	2,200	2,500	0.0	-12.0
Other Durable Goods	2,200	2,800	2,400	-21.4	-8.3
Nondurable Goods	6,600	6,800	6,800	-2.9	-2.9
Food Manufacturing	4,800	4,900	4,600	-2.0	4.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	800	0.0	-12.5
Other Nondurable Goods	1,100	1,200	1,400	-8.3	-21.4
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	225,000	224,400	221,700	0.3	1.5
<i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i>	54,600	54,300	54,400	0.6	0.4
Trade	46,100	46,000	46,500	0.2	-0.9
Wholesale Trade	12,900	13,000	12,800	-0.8	0.8
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	7,300	7,400	7,200	-1.4	1.4
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	33,200	33,000	33,700	0.6	-1.5
Food & Beverage Stores	4,500	4,400	4,500	2.3	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	7,200	7,200	7,000	0.0	2.9
All Other Retail Trade	21,500	21,400	22,200	0.5	-3.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	8,500	8,300	7,900	2.4	7.6
Utilities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	7,800	7,600	7,200	2.6	8.3
<i>Information</i>	5,000	5,000	4,700	0.0	6.4
Telecommunications	1,500	1,600	1,400	-6.3	7.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	14,000	14,000	14,300	0.0	-2.1
Finance & Insurance	10,100	10,100	10,000	0.0	1.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,900	3,900	4,300	0.0	-9.3
<i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>	40,700	40,400	41,900	0.7	-2.9
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	13,800	13,700	12,700	0.7	8.7
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,600	5,700	5,900	-1.8	-5.1
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	21,300	21,000	23,300	1.4	-8.6
<i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>	34,400	34,300	33,000	0.3	4.2
Educational Services	2,400	2,500	2,400	-4.0	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	32,000	31,800	30,600	0.6	4.6
Hospitals	10,300	10,200	9,600	1.0	7.3
<i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>	24,800	24,900	25,800	-0.4	-3.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,000	3,200	3,800	-6.3	-21.1
Accommodation & Food Services	21,800	21,700	22,000	0.5	-0.9
Accommodation	2,600	2,500	2,400	4.0	8.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	19,200	19,200	19,600	0.0	-2.0
<i>Other Services</i>	8,600	8,400	7,200	2.4	19.4
<b>Total Government</b>	42,900	43,100	40,400	-0.5	6.2
Federal Government	6,400	6,500	6,000	-1.5	6.7
State & Local Government	36,500	36,600	34,400	-0.3	6.1
State Government	13,500	13,600	12,800	-0.7	5.5
State Government Education	3,900	4,100	3,700	-4.9	5.4
State Government Administration	9,600	9,500	9,100	1.1	5.5
Local Government	23,000	23,000	21,600	0.0	6.5
Local Government Education	13,300	13,300	12,500	0.0	6.4
Local Government Administration	9,700	9,700	9,100	0.0	6.6

\* Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

# South Central Idaho Data

## Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment — Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Aug 2008*	Jul 2007	Aug 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	48,970	47,740	49,150	2.6	-0.4
Unemployment	1,820	1,620	1,090	12.3	67.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.4	2.2		
Total Employment	47,150	46,120	48,060	2.2	-1.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,160	48,560	48,990	1.2	0.3
Unemployment	1,720	1,430	980	20.3	75.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	2.9	2.0		
Total Employment	47,440	47,130	48,010	0.7	-1.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	40,200	40,160	40,460	0.1	-0.6
<i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>	7,240	7,310	7,670	-1.0	-5.6
Natural Resources & Mining	50	60	60	-16.7	-16.7
Construction	2,440	2,400	2,470	1.7	-1.2
Manufacturing	4,750	4,850	5,140	-2.1	-7.6
Food Manufacturing	2,800	2,850	3,010	-1.8	-7.0
Other Manufacturing	1,950	2,000	2,130	-2.5	-8.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	32,960	32,850	32,790	0.3	0.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,000	9,980	9,910	0.2	0.9
Wholesale Trade	1,980	1,980	1,980	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5,760	5,800	5,830	-0.7	-1.2
Utilities	180	180	180	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	2,080	2,020	1,920	3.0	8.3
Information	670	670	690	0.0	-2.9
Financial Activities	1,730	1,700	1,770	1.8	-2.3
Professional & Business Services	4,990	4,800	5,210	4.0	-4.2
Educational & Health Services	5,440	5,380	5,190	1.1	4.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,500	3,550	3,330	-1.4	5.1
Other Services	1,480	1,490	1,480	-0.7	0.0
Government Education	2,890	3,000	2,740	-3.7	5.5
Government Administration	2,260	2,280	2,470	-0.9	-8.5

\*Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

# Southeastern Idaho Data

## Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Aug 2008*	Jul 2008	Aug 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,600	42,262	44,296	3.2	-1.6
Unemployment	2,030	1,784	1,487	13.8	36.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.2	3.4		
Total Employment	41,570	40,478	42,809	2.7	-2.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,230	42,562	43,554	1.6	-0.7
Unemployment	1,860	1,586	1,264	17.3	47.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	3.7	2.9		
Total Employment	41,370	40,976	42,290	1.0	-2.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	36,940	37,330	39,310	-1.0	-6.0
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	5,500	5,500	5,940	0.0	-7.4
Natural Resources & Mining	20	20	20	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,900	1,900	2,330	0.0	-18.5
Manufacturing	3,580	3,580	3,590	0.0	-0.3
Food Manufacturing	1,310	1,400	1,310	-6.4	0.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	180	180	190	0.0	-5.3
Machinery Manufacturing	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	2,000	1,910	2,000	4.7	0.0
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	31,440	31,830	33,370	-1.2	-5.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,460	7,780	7,590	-4.1	-1.7
Wholesale Trade	1,420	1,420	1,400	0.0	1.4
Retail Trade	4,660	4,880	4,670	-4.5	-0.2
Utilities	40	50	50	-20.0	-20.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,340	1,430	1,470	-6.3	-8.8
Information	720	760	810	-5.3	-11.1
Financial Activities	2,120	2,110	2,140	0.5	-0.9
Professional & Business Services	4,700	4,650	5,390	1.1	-12.8
Educational & Health Services	3,330	3,290	3,300	1.2	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	3,450	3,130	3,860	10.2	-10.6
Other Services	1,050	1,150	1,210	-8.7	-13.2
Government Education	4,350	4,320	4,490	0.7	-3.1
Government Administration	4,260	4,640	4,580	-8.2	-7.0

\*Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

# East Central Idaho Data

## Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment – Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Aug 2008*	Jul 2008	Aug 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	67,800	61,960	61,510	9.4	10.2
Unemployment	2,110	1,880	1,220	12.2	73.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.0	2.0		
Total Employment	60,690	60,080	60,290	1.0	0.7
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	63,740	63,250	62,010	0.8	2.8
Unemployment	1,960	1,560	1,080	25.6	81.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	2.5	1.7		
Total Employment	61,780	61,690	60,920	0.1	1.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	52,500	52,420	52,350	0.2	0.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,940	8,740	8,900	2.3	0.4
Construction & Natural Resources	5,460	5,100	5,350	7.1	2.1
Manufacturing	3,480	3,640	3,550	-4.4	-2.0
Food Manufacturing	890	920	960	-3.3	-7.3
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	300	300	280	0.0	7.1
Machinery Manufacturing	160	160	170	0.0	-5.9
Other Manufacturing	2,130	2,260	2,140	-5.8	-0.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	43,560	43,680	43,450	-0.3	0.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	14,100	13,950	13,370	1.1	5.5
Wholesale Trade	3,360	3,230	3,660	4.0	-8.2
Retail Trade	7,860	7,840	7,750	0.3	1.4
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	2,820	2,820	1,900	0.0	48.4
Information	1,540	1,450	1,230	6.2	25.2
Financial Activities	2,170	2,130	2,220	1.9	-2.3
Professional & Business Services	5,640	5,750	5,740	-1.9	-1.7
Educational & Health Services	6,950	7,050	7,340	-1.4	-5.3
Leisure & Hospitality	4,680	4,720	5,110	-0.8	-8.4
Other Services	2,040	2,130	2,070	-4.2	-1.4
Government Education	2,810	2,830	2,650	-0.7	6.0
Government Administration	3,630	3,670	3,680	-1.1	-1.4

\*Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

**Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.



**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA):** Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

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**Editors:** Bob Fick ([bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov)), Jean Cullen ([jean.cullen@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:jean.cullen@labor.idaho.gov)).

